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Helping the UK out of recession and boosting communities – inside our FREE supplement celebrating your local independent traders



SCHOOLG ASSAL



WANTED: Efit of attacker

THIS man is being hunted by police after a terrified teenage girl was bundled into a van and assaulted.

The wanted man – seen here in a police efit is said to have abducted the 14-year-old girl as she made her way home from school along the Holborough Road, Snodland, on Tuesday, June 29

He drove her around the area for more than half an hour before eventually letting her go near the Favourite Chicken takeaway and Working Men's Club. She was assaulted during her ordeal and suffered minor injuries.

Police have stressed that the assault was not of a sexual nature.

A police spokesman said: "The girl reported that when she was walking home from school

BY SIMON ROBINSON

she was stopped by a man who wanted directions. As she was speaking to the man he pushed her into his van and drove her around Snodland. We would like to hear from anyone who may have information about the identity of the man or anyone who saw a white van, similar in size to a Ford Connect, in the area of Favourite Chicken, Holborough Road, Snodland between 3.45pm and 5pm on June 29.

If you have any information, call contact police on 01732 379217 quoting reference 9574 or call Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Information can also be emailed to appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk.

ALSO INSIDE



SHOW SET TO BE SHEAR DEL

The Kent County Show returns this weekend with more than 80,000 people expected to attend over three days.

Beginning on Friday at the County Showground in Detling, the event will feature all the usual highlights, as well as live stock attractions, showjumping classes and a display by the White Helmets Motorcycle

There will also be music from Mr Soul, Divine Abba, the Caribbean Melody Steel Band and Casablanca Steps.

Following criticism in previous years that the show had lost its focus, this year is expected to be a real celebration of rural and agricultural life. For more information, turn to page 11.



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS..........PAGES 4-11 PROPERTY... PAGES 44-49 **Q&A** PAGE 8 **JOBS**..... PAGES 50-52 SCHOOLS PAGE 12 CLASSIFIED PAGE 53 LETTERS PAGES 14 **SPORT** PAGES 54-55

INSIDE your lifestyle



SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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COMEDY CLUB NIGHT

Thursday 29 July

For a night of laughter and fun. A special food & door entry ticket is available for £20 per person which covers the show entrance plus 2 course meal before the show at 9pm

Price: Food & Door Ticket - £20 per person Door Entry - £12 per person

DISCO NIGHT

Friday 6th August Door entry £5, Food and Door entry £15



For bookings please call **01304 872843** or **01304 821230** events@ramadadover.co.uk

Ramada Hotel, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL www.ramadadover.co.uk







KOS



SPEARHEAD: The RAF's crack formation team will be at Headcorn aerodrome next month

Arrows tribute will be flypast climax during **Combined Ops**

peform a flypast at Headcorn aerodrome as part of the airfield's Battle of Britain 70th anniversary celebrations.

The world-famous display team will headline the second annual Combined Ops military family weekend, which will also feature other

thrilling air displays.

A Lancaster bomber, Spitfire,
Hurricane and American air force Mustang – which were all based at Headcorn during World War Two – will also take to Kent's skies during the weekend. Visitors can meet Mustang pilot Rob Davis, and Hurricane pilot Anna Walker, the only woman to fly the iconic British warplane since 1945.

A large collection of classic aircraft and military vehicles will be on display. Organiser James Baxter said: 'Last year's show was a tremendous success and more than 6,000 people attended. This year will be even more significant as we commemorate an important part of our history not just in the Britain but more significantly for Kent."

The family weekend also includes re-enactment group displays, model aircraft demonstrations, tank rides and a book signing by Mahindra Pujji, who left his native India in 1940 to answer the RAF's desperate call for pilots and ended the war a highly decorated squadron leader.

Nostalgic events such as a 1940s fashion show, tea dance and coverage from a wartime radio station will also take place.

The Combined Ops weekender takes place on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.combinedops.co.uk or on the gate. Prices have been set at £7 for adults, £5 for children and seniors and £20 for a family. Under sevens

'Daughter from hell' told to stay away

TWO pensioners were subjected to drunken rantings by the "daughter from hell", a court was told.

As a result, Amanda Shepherd, 45, of Graham Close, Maidstone, has been banned from going anywhere near them.

Police were repeatedly called to a house in Mote Avenue, Maidstone, where Shepherd's father and stepmother were at the end of their tether. Shepherd admitted harassment charges at Maidstone Magistrates'

Jenny Yale, prosecuting, said Shepherd had a long history of drink and drug addiction and had been to prison. She went to the house in January, 2009, and started shouting,

when her father answered it, Shepherd tried to force her way in before attempting to attack her stepmother. On another visit she picked up a plant pot and threw it at the house. The terrified couple, in their 70s, kept their doors and windows locked.

In a statement, Shepherd's father said: "Her unpredictable behaviour is not fair on us or our neighbours. The stress is making us ill. I don't want to

see her again."

Russell Morley, defending, said:
"Alcohol played a large role and
Shepherd is sorry for what she has
done. She suffered blackouts and couldn't remember anything.

"She is ashamed and shocked. Understandably, her family has lost patience with her."

The case was adjourned until Wednesday, July 28.

Mela on the march

PUPILS will team up today (Wednesday) to celebrate the launch of Maidstone Mela.

Youngsters from St Michael's Junior, Archbishop Courtenay, St Francis, Hollingbourne Primary, South Borough and West Borough schools will take part in a parade through the town from Week Street to Brenchley Gardens.

They will be joined by drum group Four by Four, along with the Bloco Fogo Samba and Uzambezi African drummers, who will lead the parade.

The Mela will be held in Mote Park over two days in September and is a celebration of diversity through music, food and dance.

Visit www.maidstonemela.com for more information.

'Deadly' Derek to open ground

ENGLAND and Kent cricket legend Derek Underwood will perform the opening ceremony for the Kings Hill cricket club ground on Saturday.



SPIN LEGEND: Derek Underwood

The day will also see Andrew Blevins, managing director of Liberty Property Trust. together with County Kent Council donated the use of the ground and built the pavilion for the club, present

club chairman Brian Bell.

the keys to cricket

The club, founded just four years ago, had only been able to play away matches but now has use of an

immaculate pitch and a traditional white weatherboard pavilion with a clock tower, which the club hopes will become a flagship for young crick-

Mr Bell said: "We are a vibrant club and always looking to attract new members and I am sure the ground

"It'll be great to be able to play at home and reciprocate the hospitality

given by the teams we play.
"We already have 30 members, all of whom either live or work in the area, and although we are only fielding one team this year we hope to field two next year and two adult teams and one colts team the year after. We will also be offering youth coaching next year."

To celebrate the opening, the home side will play Town Malling whose

ground is thought to be the site of the

first recorded cricket match in Kent. Charles Dickens is thought to have used the ground as a setting for the match between All-Muggleton and Dingley Dell in the Pickwick Papers.

There will also be a match between two local primary schools which will then make way for a barbecue, as well as a display of classic military

Mr Blevins said: "Everyone is welcome to attend and support the teams. It should be an exciting day.

"The new ground is a great addition at Kings Hill and the club is delighted to have a home.'

The site is provided for the community by a developer and is just one of the sporting amenities in the area, alongside a David Lloyd fitness centre and an 18-hole PGA golf course.

Bank card holiday fraudster is jailed

Ringleader's gang swindled £250k from operator

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

A GANG of bank card criminals has been sentenced after booking 60 fraudulent luxury holidays online swindling the tour operator out of more than £250,000.

The group, made up of seven women and five men, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, where they sentenced for conspiracy to defraud Thomas Cook, as well as other fraud

Ringleader Rachel Allgood, of William Baker House, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, pleaded guilty to booking at least 17 all-inclusive holidays – priced between £1,900 and £8,000 a time – at five-star hotels across the globe.

The 28-year-old also used compromised bank card details to defraud Sainsbury's, Medway Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. She was sentenced to fourand-a-half years in prison.

Her 11 co-defendants - aged from 22 to 48 - were given suspended prison sentences and unpaid work.

The court heard how Kent Police were tipped off about Allgood's holiday



GUILTY PLEA: Rachel Allgood

scam in October, 2008

Detectives were told the fraudster had used compromised bank card details to book a holiday to Jamaica for herself and about 40 other people, who were due to travel within days.

The group was stopped at Gatwick airport on October 20.

Search warrants were carried out later that day at Allgood's home, during which documentation, mobile

phones and sim cards were seized.

Further investigations found that all-inclusive five-star holidays, using compromised bank card details, had been purchased from Thomas Cook from September, 2006, to November, 2008, by members of the group, either

for themselves or on behalf of others. Holidays booked for other people would be offered at a discount, with all monies kept by the offenders. About 60 fraudulent bookings are known to have been made.

Sentencing, Judge Philip Statman said Allgood was "at the heart of the conspiracies" and had "acted as an illicit travel agent for others".

Detective Constable Champion, who led the investigation, said: "This was a complex case involving a large number of people working together to defraud Thomas Cook using compromised bank card details.

"The connections between the fraudulent holiday bookings became obvious due to the same information appearing on the internet applica-

"Allgood was the central point in the organisation of the fraud, making the majority of the holiday bookings.

"At no point during the investigation could any member of the group explain how they could fund these high-value holidays.



for Poundland on Saturday when she appears at the new store in Week

The 31-year-old soap star will be at a family fun day to celebrate the arrival of the discount outlet, which opens for trading in Maidstone tomorrow (Thursday). The actress, who plays Becky McDonald in the long-running TV soap, will sign autographs for fans and pose for photographs with shoppers.

Kick up the butt for litter louts

COUNCIL chiefs have launched a six-month crackdown on the county town's litter louts.

Maidstone council's enforcement team will be doubled in numbers for the duration.

Bosses believe 100 litterbugs could be caught every week. They will be offered the chance to pay a

£75 fine within 14 days.
Failure to pay could see them taken to court, risking a fine of up to £2,500, costs and a criminal record. Cabinet member Cllr Ben Sherreard said: "We are tackling this head-on. Every year millions are spent on street cleaning and clearing rubbish such as cigarette butts, chewing gum, sweet wrappers and food containers.

"That's a lot of money that could be better spent if people didn't drop litter in the first place."

The No Ifs No Butts operation will also crack down on businesses and private land owners to make sure they are clearing up waste and litter

Cllr Sherreard said: "Maidstone council spends a huge amount of time and money keeping our borough tidy. We have so many beautiful green spaces and great places to shop and spend leisure time.

"No Ifs No Butts will target those who let down the law-abid-

ing majority."
To report a litter hot spot, call 01622 602162.

Hadlow's medal haul jewel in the crown

HADLOW College bagged a haul of awards and medals for a garden and floral arrangement created by its students at a prestigious show.

The garden, built to reflect how climate change could affect the crops grown in Kent, was named the best small garden at Hampton Court

Palace Flower Show.

The Food 4 Thought display designed by former Hadlow student Mandy Buckland also scooped a gold medal at the show, held in the grounds of the Royal Palace in East Moseley, Surrey.

The college's floral arrangement

also stole the show by winning two awards and a gold medal.

The Crown Jewels display created by higher diploma students at Hadlow was named best exhibit and best college arrangement.

Hadlow also won gold medals for its Full Frontal garden in 2007 and The Rain Chain garden last year, which were both designed by former college students. The Rain Chain was also named the best small sustainable garden in 2009.

A college official said: "We're pleased our entry Food 4 Thought has continued Hadlow College's phenomenal success at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show."



FLORAL GLORY: Hadlow College's Crown Jewels arrangement took three awards

The floral arrangement was based on the Crown Jewels kept at the Tower of London, which was a concept created by Hadlow College lecturer Laura Finlay.





Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975, 91 minutes) 21st August (8pm)

Join us with picnic, for a rare opportunity to see one of cinema's classic comedies on the big screen in the spectacular setting of Leeds Castle. This is Monty Python at their best - a hilarious medieval adventure upon which we encounter killer rabbits, outrageous French accents and of course the famous Knights who say "Ni!"

Tickets: £10 no concessions

Presented by Protect Kent, in aid of their campaign work to protect our beautiful Kent countryside for future generations.

How to book

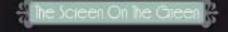
Book online at www.leeds-castle.com/events
Call 01622 880008 weekdays from 1st March, 10am - 5pm.
Booking fee of £2.50 applies to all orders.

Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.









Are police breaking law in fight against under-age drinking?

BY STEVE KNIGHT

POLICE who confiscate alcohol from under-age drinkers have been told they are flouting environmental laws by pouring the booze into roadside drains.

The 1997 Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act makes it legal for officers to dispose of alcohol "in such a manner as he/she considers appropriate" in front of the young-sters they have seized it from.

However, by pouring it down roadside drains, police in Maidstone have fallen foul of the 1991 Water Resources Act - which states that it is an offence to knowingly permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter to enter any controlled waters.

The Environment Agency (EA) confirmed this week that alcohol falls under this legislation, which brings a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment.

And despite a Kent Police spokeswoman telling KOS Media the force had gained permission from the EA to pour alcohol down drains, the next day a statement revealed officers were to be advised against doing so.

In the statement, head of licensing PC Barbara Murray said current Kent Police policy was for all drinks containers - regardless of whether they have been opened or not - to be poured away in the presence of whom

they are seized from.

She added: "This method of alcohol disposal is adopted by forces across the UK and reinforces to the person from whom the alcohol has been confiscated the consequences of their unruly behaviour.

"On this occasion we recognise the alcohol in question should not have been poured directly into a drain and will be making sure

all our officers are properly informed about the correct method of disposing of alcohol."

Despite the oversight, the EA confirmed it will not be taking legal action against the force.

A spokesman said: "The Environment

Agency generally discourages the disposal of all liquids other than water via drainage

"A single can of beer is unlikely to have a noticeable impact on the environment, and we fully appreciate the police are making



ILLEGAL: Police have been warned pouring seized alcohol down drains is breaking the law

concerted efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol.

A photograph of two officers pouring what appears to be a bottle of vodka and a fruitflavoured alcopop into a drain was circulated by Kent Police last week.

The picture was to help raise awareness for a new alcohol control zone in Maidstone, which has been enforced in the town centre to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Police now have the power to arrest or fine people who continue to drink within the zone after being told to stop.

Licensing officer Neil Barnes said: "These powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities such as families having a picnic in the park, but are designed to address nuisance or annovance associated with the consumption of alcohol within a designated area.

"We would like to emphasise that drinking is still allowed where it is permitted, such as

"The object is to allow people to enjoy themselves without being confronted by intoxicated individuals in the street.'

Man given warning over cannabis stash

A CANNABIS smoker was given a warning by police after being caught in possession of the Class B drug.

The 53-year-old was arrested at his home in Farleigh Lane, Maidstone, on Monday, June 28, after officers raided his property.

They were called following reports from residents of a strong cannabis smell coming from an open window.

PC Tracey Thorndycraft attended the building and seized two small bags of herbal cannabis

She said: "It helps us greatly when the public assist us about illegal drug use. Just small pieces of information can prove vital in the fight against drug taking and dealing.
"I urge members of the public to contact

the Maidstone Neighbourhood Police Team on 01622 604390 with any suspicious smells or activity. All calls will be followed up, no matter how minor it may seem.

A DISCOVER AT THE NEW **National Maritime Museum** and Imperial War Museum Opening 24th July thedockyard.co.uk

yourmaidstone.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

CCTV nets newspaper thief

A MAN couldn't afford the Sunday newspapers so he got up at the crack of down to steal

some, a court was told.

But Kevin White, 57, of Greenborough Close, Maidstone, was unaware he was being filmed on CCTV.

He got up at 4am to steal ten newspapers from outside M and P Newsagents in Northumberland Court.

Jenny Yale, prosecuting at Maidstone Magistrates Court, said: "He was seen removing papers from bundles. He put them in a

rucksack and cycled off."

White had been caught stealing papers from the same shop before and had been given a six month conditional discharge.

CCTV operators tracked him to King Street in the town centre and found the papers still

White, who has been out of work since 1980, was given a 12 month community order and told to pay £20 costs and £10 compensation.

Burgar escapes with haul

A VALUABLE mountain bike, mobile phone and music player were stolen from a house in Snodland at the weekend.

The Trek Liquid 55 bike worth more than £2,000 and a silver and black LG phone and a silver iPod Touch covered in smiley face stickers were taken between 10.30pm on Saturday, July 3, and 4.20am the following morning.

The bicycle has a royal blue frame, red accessories and custom made wheels with grey forks and red hubs.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call police on 01732 379217.

Marmalade boosts scouts

A SCOUTS group has moved into their brand new headquarters thanks in part to a grandmother's home-made marmalade.

The 1st Headcorn Scouts Group reached their £350,000 Scout Hall fundraising target in eight years, with help from charitable com-

munity groups and benefactors.

Beatrice Pitcher, who celebrated her 90th birthday this year, donated £5,000 to the Scouts' cause through the sale of her homemade marmalade.

Scout Leader Mike Brook-Foster MBE said "After eight years of hard work we have finally got a building to be proud of. It's brilliant and we have already started using it."



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KATIE 24, pretty, small/slim, long blonde hair, outgoing and fun, seeks able, seeks slim-medium build male, 42-caring, sincere guy for fun friendship, smaybe more. Tel, No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337823 \$\frac{1}{2}\$\$

ANNE 46, slim, N/S, honest, kind, reliii - 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380086

MARIE 60, dark hair/eyes, kind, honest, GSOH, varried interests, N/S, seeks slim-medium build male, 42-caring, sincere guy for fun friendship, constant of the caring sincere guy for fun friendship. Tel No: 337247 \$\frac{1}{2}\$\$

SINCI E fun loving female 47 kind, car-caring sincere guy for sincere guy for fun friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380086

BUBBLY brunette, 40, lovely smile, likes to look good, loves rock bands and motorbikes seeks confident man for new

ATTRACTIVE young 42yr old female, size 12, voluptuous, seeks tall, athletic happiness. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337817

THERE'S more to life than work! Sandra, 46, bubbly professional looking to No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336833

PAT 64, petite, brown hair, blue eyes, young at heart, N/S, bubbly, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks likeminded gent of similar age for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337369 Open Side To Horizontal Park (No: 1906 515 7112 Box No: 337369 Open Side To Horizontal Park (No: 1906 515 7112 Box No: 1909 Side To Horizontal Park (No: 1909 Side To Horizontal Park (No:

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SARAH attractive, slim, 5ft 5ins, brunette, likes pubs, walks, travel, seeks male, 30-38 who is caring, exciting, confident and attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337581 Sights out, pubs, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515 Sights out, pubs, meals on the seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515 Sights out, pubs, meals on the seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515 Sights out, pubs, meals on the seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515 Sights out, pubs, meals on the seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515 Sights out, pubs, meals on the seeks attractive, titled seeks attractive guy who likes dining out, music, cinema, holidays abroad with someone special relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335773 Intense for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335773 Intense for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335773 Intense for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 33595 Sights for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 33595 Sights for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 33595 Sights for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 33595 Sights for friendship, m

MISCHA 60, blonde hair, blue eyes, well built, likes countryside, shows, fairs, walks, boot sales, home life, cooking, seeks likeminded male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel**, **No:** 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337859 €

33YR old lady, seeks 30-35yr old male

eyes, likes keep fit, seeks younger male with GSOH for serious fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337925 12 337269

MICHELLE 43, long curly brown hair, sparkly green eyes, lovely figure, easy-going and affectionate, WLTM nice man for loving relationship. Age unimportant for l

MARIA 23, chatty blonde, fun to be around, likes to try new things seeks venturous red haired lady looking for adspontaneous male for no strings fun and laughter. FIL No: 0906 515 7112 Box a ralexed no strings relationship. Tel No: 337825 9

MARIA 23, chatty blonde, fun to be around, likes to try new things seeks wenturous red haired lady looking for adspondance or venture seeks tall good looking guy for siderate, NS, likes outdoors, socialising, laughter. FIL No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337851 9

many interests, seeks male for happy open and the properties of t

SINGLE fun loving female, 47, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, walks, seeks male, 39-49 for friendship/relationship.

LARGER lady 61, likes tv, cinema, boot sales, fairs, reading, WLTM male for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No. 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336833

May 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336833

TETIRED female, new to area, likes art, music, concerts, theatre, seeks similar professional/retired male. Tel No: 0906

seeks genuine, grubby builder with rough hands and big heart to cherish. Tel No: 9906 515 7112 Box No: 337609 515 7112 Box No: 515 7112 Box No: 30170

mum, OHAC, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337351

PAM 33, pretty, kind, loving brunette is seeks funny, laidback male for relaxing ideas. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 1712 Box No: 337273 T112 Box No: 337273 T112 Box No: 307273 T112 Box

RESCUE me! Lonely, hard working pro-

0906 515 7112 Box No: 380086

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FEMALE early 50's, seeks likeminded 41YR old female, medium build, likes male, 50-55 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 gmm, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks bit 51112 Box No: 380262 mind hearted gent for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:

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MANDY 18, very pretty inexperienced

IRENE 55, sensual, very fair slim blonde, striking green eyes seeks young at heart dark male who has plenty of fun

__ INTELLIGENT tall slim brunette with a 33YR old lady, seeks 30-35yr old male, romantic, sincere and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380382 male, seeks someone nice to share lots of cuddles, TLC and more. Carbon male to share lots of cuddles, TLC and more. Carbon male for rambling, seeks likeminded male for rambling, horse riding and other similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336077 male, romand male for male for rambling.

horse riding and other similar interests.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380372

ASMINE 38, fun loving, easygoing and flirty seeks genuine male to make her curvy blonde, girl of any mans dreams eyes, likes keep fit, seeks younger male to eyes, likes keep fit, seeks younger male to with GSOH for serious fun. Tel No: 0906

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: intimate evening in and fun nights out. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515

RESCUE mel Lonely, hard working professional would love to be wined and dined by a romantic fun loving male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337267 grant for lots of fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 77112 Box No: 337267 grant for lots of fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 77112 Box No: 336675 grant for lots of fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 77112 Box No: 336675 grant for lots of fun and loving.

BEAUTIFUL exotic, very petite female, 4. IJSON 30, pretty, slim with long brown 44, loves to cook romantic meals in, hair, fit and active seeks fit older male whatever it takes to keep fit and in seeks loving male to share relaxing for energetic relationship. Tell No: 0906 shape, seeks tall, exciting male who nights with good wine, great company 515 7112 Box No: 336719 thinks he can keep up with her. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336673

> MICHELLE 26, lonely young widow with no ties, lovely smile, looking for love, romance, flowers and lots of TLC again. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336669

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, early 60's GSOH, likes most things, fed up of kiss-ing frogs, seeks genuine, caring male of similar age to share the good things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336515

GEORGIE 45, curvy, tactile blonde, bubbly and chatty looking for broadminded, fun loving, mature male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335563

ALI 25, petite with long brown hair and 7112 Box No: 337673 blue eyes, happy personality, knows what she wants, looking for dishy older guy to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335561

ATTRACTIVE feminine dark haired conversation, GSOH, seeks N/S male to share similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335519

ANNIE 55, very feminine, curvy with short fair hair and green eyes, loves life seeking well built male who would like to chill out and cuddle up on the sofa. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335533

TRACY 31, 5ft 1ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, bubbly, GSOH, 2 children, likes animals, seeks genuine, trustwor-thy, honest male, 35-50 for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379552

SANDRA 60, bubbly widow WLTM loving male who knows how to treat a lady for good conversation and relaxed fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333631

male who thinks he can satisfy all her dreams. Looks unimportant. Tet No: 337569 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry brungth of 11, wasting to lar layer again. The layer again 236075 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336075 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 333629 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 333629 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 336625 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 333629 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 33662 COUTGOING male needed to end bored and lonely evenings by lovely, curry discreet fun times. Tet No: 0906 515 No: 0

KΔV 37 heautiful warm friendly blonde, no ties, would love to get to-gether with an attractive male who can

LOVELY female, 55, 5ft 6ins, seeks TALL attractive male, seeks older female 53-59, 6ft and N/S. Tel No: 0906 male for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: lle 53-59, 6ft and N/S. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334633

FEMALE likes holidays, ballet, reading, No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335437

seeks well built older blond male who knows just what he wants for fun times

HANDSOME black male, tall, slim, athand much more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 letic, seeks
Box No: 336071

MANDY 34, lovable, curvy, bubbly, long brown hair seeks unattached, loving male for some serious fun and passion. male for some serious fun and pa Looks unimportant. Tel. No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335539

LOVELY chic free spirited green eyed

PAULETTE 63, shy, outgoing, long hair,

KAREN 50, 5ft 2ins, medium build, young at heart, active, smoker, likes horses, no ties, seeks nice male for fun haif, brown eyes, seeks tall, slim female, and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 25-45 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379510 Box No: 380294

eeking womer

chat to local people Send : CHAT883 To : 65125 (T&C's

LONELY widow, misses hugs and gen-uine TLC, seeks loyal, understanding fe-

LONELT widow, misses hugs and genuine TLC, seeks loyal, understanding female for LTR. Tel. No: 0906 515 7112

Box No: 380340

MALE 44, nice looking, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, WLTM nice, attractive female, slim, 34-40 who is very true and lonest for firendship, maybe more. Tel. No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336983
Vo. 1906 515 7112 Box No: 336983
JOHN 63, easygoing, seeks s

ity, slim, pretty, intelligent female with GSOH, 30-40, must like sailing and music. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337879**

5FT 8ins male, medium build, mid 40's, with kids, seeks career woman, 35-45 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112**

LOVING mature male, GSOH, 5ft 10ins, medium build, no ties, OHAC, likes travel, home cooking, seeks special, honest, trustworthy, N/S lady to spoil,

10ins, fit, likes walks, gardening, seeks slim blonde female, 45-55 for TLC and possible LTR. Tel_No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380362

DAVID 51, divorced, lonely, shy, N/S, black hair, likes most things, seeks sim-liar female, 45 plus for friendship/com-panionship. Roc 9906 515 7112 Box No: 337613

MALE easygoing, 47, 5ft 6ins, male, 35-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 male 7112 Box No: 380342

ADE 40, attractive, blond hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals out, ani-mals, socialising, sport, kind, caring, seeks male for friendship, maybe more.

0906 515 7112 Box No: 336841

SLIM fit, tall, attractive widower, 48, eks N/S male, under 70. Tel kind, romantic, amusing, seeks com-MN: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335437

MY 20, very pretty, smart brunette

No: 336831

No: 336831

letic, seeks female, any age for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380278

ship with woman 42 or younger. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337169

FED up with dull and boring, not over ex well dark haired male, 50, fit, exciting, charismatic, seeks slim female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337001

Gent 74, lonely, faithful, likes homelife,

Gent 74, lonely, faithful, likes homelife, solvent, own flat, seeks N/S female, 55-70 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 interests, seeks large build lady, 45-65 7112 Box No: 333761

outgoing, likes nights in/out, theatre, ing, seeks slim N/S female for fun and travel, seeks female for friendship, good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 No: 380072 Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and Box No: 337095 PETER 30, 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes

ous, seeks qual-gent female with Mo: 1906 515 7112 Box No: 336698 gent female with JONY 65, active, honest, N/S, likes aged female for fun times, maybe more. 15 7112 Box No: walks, holidays, socialising, meals out, Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: seeks female of similar age for com-

understanding, likes walks, history, travel, films, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 45-60 for LTR. Tel No: MALE seeks black/foreign female for standing lady, 45-60 for LTR. Tel 1 fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336527 🗒

JOHN young looking 59, self employed, likes pubs, music, nights in, seeks slimen N/S, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship, medium build female, 28-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336615

51YR old chap, 6ft, not bald, looks bit like Richard Branson without the money, seeks gorgeous lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 515712 Box No: 336529 5157112 Box No: 336529 5157112 Box No: 336529 5157112 Box No: 336529 5157112 Box No: 346529 5157112 Box No: 34

nonest, trustworm, N/S lady to spoil, size 10-12. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330934 N

SIMON 35, fair hair, 5ft 6ins, good looks, eyes, kind, caring, likes nights out, seeks mature female, 45-65 to spice up life with no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515

7112 Box No: 380136 ROMANTIC country man, young 50's,

515 7112 Box No: 379906 brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes **GENUINE** male, 45, no ties, GSOH, walks, music, travel, seeks similar fesexy, honest, smoker, seeks nice fes

sexy, honest, smoker, seeks nice fe-male, any age/nationality/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335099 5FT 10ins male, 58, widow, likes cooking, travel, dogs, seeks female, 50-70.
Tel No:, 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379850

TALL slim, dark haired, attractive male young 54, seeks attractive, slim female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334557

JASON fun loving, late 20's, likes outdoors, meals out, pubs, clubs, dad of one, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379878

CARING fit guy 48, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 9ins, seeks pretty, well spoken Sussex lady, 42 or younger for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379816

STEVE mature guy 52, green eyes, GSOH, like music, nights in/out, seeks

interests, seeks large build lady, 45-65 for special relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380058

28YR old male, likes clubs, bars, dancing, seeks likeminded female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336525

ALI 42, honest, own business, bubbly, DAVID 46, slim, OHAC, N/S, likes cook outgoing, likes nights in/out, theatre, ing, seeks slim N/S female for fun and

HOVE male, 61, easygoing, GSOH, likes music, seaside, cinema, shows, country pubs, photography, seeks female for friendship/companionship. Te medium build, likes cinema, meals out, country pubs, photography, seeks fenights in, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380216 No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380044

GENT 60's, 5ft 11ins, nice looks, medium build, GSOH, laidback, seeks

Seeks lerinate of stimilar age for corresponding to the seeks lerinate of stimilar age for corresponding to the seeks level of the seeks fundarizeyes, stim-medium build, seeks fundativeyes, stim-medium build, seeks fundativeyes, stim-medium build, seeks fundativeyes, stim-medium build, seeks fundative fun male for relationship and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334167

- ADIE 40. attractive, blond hair, blue



matches, fun and safe service.

GAY male, 39, straight acting, brown eyes, fit, good looking, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335903

GAY male, 59, seeks similar male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379266

MALE N/S, likes walks, travel, beach, seeks honest gent 49 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337967 MARK 58, divorced, bi, 5ft 11ins, good shape, seeks bi male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337763



friends, 30-40 plus to socialise, dance, meals out, coffees and chats. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330819



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all

Festival chief makes vow to fix problems ahead of 2011

BY **DAN COLOMBINI**

HOP FARM Festival organiser Vince Power has apologised for the problems that blighted the event for many festival-goers last weekend.

Despite glorious sunshine and a star-studded line up featuring legends such as Bob Dylan and former Kinks singer/songwriter Ray Davies, many fans were forced to tackle long queues for water, the toilets and the bars.

There were also numerous complaints about the sound quality at the main stage.

Mr Power, who began his live music empire back in 1982 when he opened the Mean Fiddler in Harlesden, North London said: "Among the glowing feedback we've received, I am aware that there were some issues that arose which I would like to offer an explanation and my apologies for.

"Saturday's water issues were due to a temporary loss of pressure in the area. Although we anticipated for the festival capacity, the plumbing system unfortunately failed us.

'In response to the complaints we've had regarding the sound quality at the main stage, I have called an urgent meeting with all those involved to look into the situation. Whilst the quality was excellent, it was lacking penetration beyond the sound desk."

On the subject of queuing times, the former Reading Festival promoter added: "I have organised a meeting to review the concerns





HOT LINE-UP: The crowd at the Hop Farm endured sweltering heat to enjoy acts such as Blondie (left), and organisers say they are investigating complaints about long gueues, shortage of water and the poor sound quality on the main stage

"We provided the recommended amount of toilet facilities for the expected capacity, but after reviewing it further I am convinced we will need to increase this for next year.

"Additionally I have spoken with our beer suppliers to discuss the shortage of bars within the site and the systems in place that seemed to delay service. Although queuing is to be expected in a festival environment, I am aware that it can be frustrating and will look into reducing waiting times for 2011.

"I assure you that we have taken on board all of your comments and concerns and will apply them for next year to prevent these issues from

Within hours of the statement, many fans responded positively on the official Hop Farm Festival Facebook page and it would appear that the problems will not stop live music lovers from returning next year.

Julius Sowu wrote: "It's so refreshing to get an immediate and personal response from an organisation."

Fellow Hop Farmer Jonathan Mears added: "Now that's put to bed, let's all start looking forward to next year'

Mr Power ended his statement by saying that the organisers are already in the process of putting together the line up for next year and tickets will be available soon.

Cyclist's in peak form

HEALTH worker Yassmin Sanders is gearing up for a cycle challenge that will see her take on ten mountains in ten days.

The Medway NHS Trust legal assistant, from Maidstone, will start her fundraiser in the Pyrenees in September.

She said: "The aim is to do one mountain pass a day. We have to carry lots of kit, so it's going to be strenuous, but worth it. I love cycling, so when the chance to take part in this trip came up I couldn't turn it down and it's for such a good cause - Macmillan Cancer Support. We're hoping to raise £10,000 before September."

Yassmin has been training by cycling from Maidstone to Gillingham via Blue Bell Hill twice a week. To donate simply visit www.justgiving.com/Pyrenees2010-BB





yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

GREGORY



Tell us about yourself.

My name is Anne Gregory and I am secretary of the Maidstone & Medway Cat Club.

How many cats do you have?

I have nine. They're all neutered and much I have nine. They is an incurred loved pets. Apart from a male Egyptian Mau, the others are retired breeding queens.

Tell us a bit about the Maidstone & Medway Cat Club.

This is an area club affiliated to the A Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (the cat equivalent of the Kennel Club). We have just over 200 members from around the country mainly because they want to exhibit their cats at our Annual Christmas Championship show. This was always held at the Black Lion, but, since it has been refurbished for the Olympic Games they are no longer able to hire their hall for non-sporting events. So, we had to move our show to the Bracknell Leisure Centre in Berkshire which was the nearest hall with sufficient facilities. www.maidstoneandmedwaycatclub.co.uk gives a real picture of our club.

How did you get involved with the club?

I belonged to the club as it was local to me and then 20 years ago my husband and I were asked to manage their annual show - the

Mhat is your role within the club?

I am the secretary; one of the show managers; membership secretary and liaison for welfare.

What is the best part of this role?

Meeting with the members and making sure they feel part of the club. We hold our annual general meeting in Hempstead and that is always a friendly, social get-together with plenty of lively discussion.

Mhat is the worst part of your role?

Writing up the minutes of meetings and

Mow popular is the club?

It is our annual show that is the popular event. We generally have around 500 cats, both pedigree and non-pedigree in competition. Exhibitors come from as far afield as Yorkshire or Devon and our judges too come from around the UK. We build the atmosphere to be as 'Christmassy' as possible and everyone comes along in a party mood!

Does the club compete at or visit competitions?

It is our club members' cats that compete to win titles. In the GCCF we have strict rules for the welfare and wellbeing of all cats so cats cannot be shown more frequently than 13 days between shows. I am sure if you visited a show anywhere in the UK you could find a member of

What type of advice does the club give out to cat owners?

We advise cat owners on all areas as far as We advise cat owners on all areas as tar as the welfare and wellbeing of cats is con-cerned. All cats not specifically owned for breeding should be neutered. No cats should be allowed to wander free at night time. We advise on cat care, diet and best practice when owning, breeding and showing. We have talks at our AGM from Cat Behaviourists; Cat Rescue Organisations etc.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I would say my hobby is a full time occupa-Ation. I'm on several cat club committees and breed advisory committees; I am an all-breed judge for the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and have been to the USA and Europe in that role as well as judging around the UK and Ireland. I am a member of the Executive Committee of the Governing Council and thoroughly enjoy my absorbing hobby/lifestyle.

The Maidstone and Medway Cat Club secretary talks to **Mathew Beech** about her love of cats, what the club offers to members and why her hobby is really a full-time occupation and lifestyle

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Somme-thing to remember then

BY NICK AMES

THE bloodiest day in the history of the British Army - July 1, 1916 - was commemorated at poignant services large and small in northern France last week.

On the first day alone of the Battle of the Somme there were 60,000 casualties including more than 19,000 dead.

Among the soldiers who advanced over noman's-land towards a network of trenches and barbed wire under hails of machine-gun fire were two local regiments, The Buffs (East Kent) and the Royal West Kent (Queen's Own).

This year a tribute at the massive Memorial To The Missing at Thiepval in France remembered the sacrifice of a generation. The structure commemorates those who literally disappeared during the conflict, which ran from 1914-18 - blown apart, drowned in the mud or buried forever. On it are 72,000 names.

The recovered bodies of soldiers are buried

in the graveyards that dot the area. Crosses are inscribed with name, age, unit and rank, along with the day that they died

A total of 30 members of The Buffs and 20 Royal West Kent soldiers who fell in the first attack of the battle on July 1 are inscribed at Thiepval. And in total the monument has the names of 536 Buffs and 833 West Kent men.

The Battle of the Somme was one of the largest battles of the First World War and by the time fighting had petered out in late autumn 1916, more than 1.5 million casualties had been suffered by the forces involved.

A regimental sergeant major of The Buffs, called Moody, compiled an account of the



THE ONLY COLOUR'S RED: Swathes of poppies now carpet the fields of the Somme where so many lost their lives

opening day. He wrote: "On the great 1st of July the 55th Brigade, a unit of which was the 7th Battalion The Buffs, held the line in front of Carnoy, and its objective was a trench about 200 yards north of the Montauban-Fricourt road.

"At 7am our barrage became intense and remained so till 7.22, at which time all guns of the trench mortar battery opened for eight minutes, and at the zero hour the whole brigade went forward to the assault. The Carnoy mine craters took six hours to clear, and six hours' very heavy fighting it was, carried out under 2nd Lieut. Tatum, whose excellent work was rewarded by a Military Cross.

"There is no doubt that during the whole operation, which was carried out more or less as planned, our troops encountered far more opposition than was anticipated; particularly was this the case at the craters, to attack which only two platoons were originally assigned, a number of men quite inadequate.

"The whole position, indeed, proved to be a very strong one, consisting of four lines."

The plan for the Somme offensive evolved out of Allied strategic discussions at Chantilly, Oise, in December, 1915.

The Anglo-French offensive was intended to

create a breach in the German line which could then be exploited with a decisive blow.

With the German attack on Verdun on the River Meuse in February 1916, the Allies were forced to adapt their plans. The British Army took the lead on the Somme, though the French contribution remained significant.

The opening day of the battle on July 1, 1916, saw the British Army suffer the worst one-day combat losses in its history, with almost 60,000 casualties.

The conduct of the battle has been a source of historical controversy – senior officers such as General Sir Douglas Haig, the commander of the British Expeditionary Force, and Henry Rawlinson, the commander of Fourth Army, have been criticised for incurring severe losses while failing to achieve territorial objectives.

But other historians have portrayed the Somme as a vital preliminary to the defeat of the German Army, and one which taught the British Army valuable tactical lessons

Now, dotted by immaculately-kept graveyards, the area around the Somme is largely farmland with wooded areas and villages

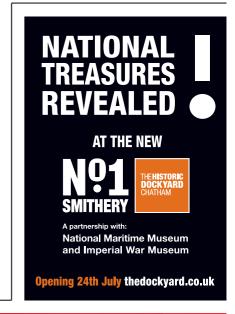
But it still retains the legacy of the battle. Each year explosives, weapons, helmets and even body parts are discovered as the earth gives up its secrets. Many finds are on display in the Museum of the Great War in the small town of Peronne – close to the front line of 1916.

Curator Frederick Hadley said: "We preserve the memory of a generation who fought and lost their

"The battle may be part of history now, but in this part of France it is very much alive.

The crosses which commemorate the lives of these soldiers are a reminder of sacrifice by Britain, which sent men to protect our country.

"For that reason British visitors will always be welcome here."





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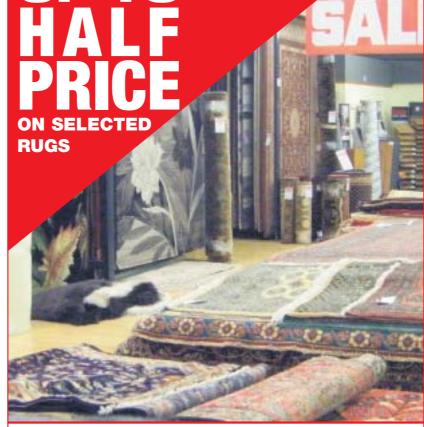
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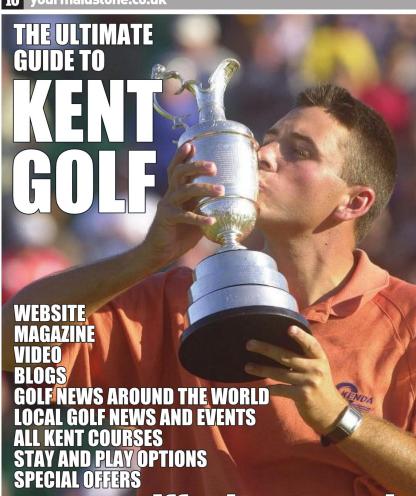






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Richard Purvis on



BY STEVE KNIGHT

THOUSANDS of spectators will flock to Maidstone next weekend to enjoy the sights and sounds of the annual Kent County Show.

First held in 1923, the show is a celebration of rural life with typical attractions including bird of prey displays, agricultural demonstra-tions, livestock competitions and a young farmers area.

Total attendance for last year's three-day programme was about 80,000, but organiser the Kent County Agricultural Society (KCAS) hopes an improved marketing campaign will help swell that by at least a further 10,000.

As always, the show will be held at the County Showground in Detling, and will again run for three days from Friday, July 16.

Launching the show back in February, KCAS chairman George Jessel said he was

putting the focus back on farming following criticism of previous events.

He said: "În the past there has been the odd criticism about us being too focused on aspects like selling cars and not enough on agricul-

ture, but that's going to change.
"This year there will be lots of exciting new stands and rings, and the show will be more agriculturally and horticulturally-based.

It's not going to be the old mundane run-ofthe-mill show that perhaps we've been putting on in recent years. We're going to attack 2010 with real vigour and attract people back."

Interactive

You can see the KOS Media stall in the EcoVillage – a 7,000 sq m of space with 70 exhibitors. Whitstable-based EcoVillage will be promoting green businesses, products and organisations to people attending the show.

One of the main features of this year's show

will again be the interactive Why Farming Matters attraction, which will allow visitors to learn something new about the countryside and where food comes from.

The Kent Young Farmers area is now larger than usual, as is the countryside area that will showcase hound pens, gundogs, birds of prey, terrier racing and more.

There will also be a new public lawn as well as wider viewing areas around the Astor Ring, which will host show-jumping classes and a display by the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team.

Music will be provided by Mr Soul, Divine Abba, the Caribbean Melody Steel Band and Casablanca Steps.

A wide range of refreshments will also be available.

Advance tickets cost £15 per adult (£17 on the gate) and come with two complimentary child tickets per purchase.

Additional children cost £5 (£7.50 on the gate) and senior citizens £11 (£12 on the gate). Log on to www.kentshowground.co.uk or call 01622 630975 for more information.

County Show is going back to its rural roots





ECO-FRIENDLY: The team from the EcoVillage (left) will be promoting the benefits of a greener way of life complete with a diverse range of businesses and stallholders

ONE of the highlights of this year's County Show will be the EcoVillage, which promotes green businesses, products and organisations.

This year's area will feature a varying range of exhibitors – including a stall run by KOS Media, publishers of this paper.

Other stands will range from solar energy to organic clothing, from investments and banking, to wildlife days out and food to cosmetics

But all have one thing in common - they are committed to a greener way of doing business and conducting their lives

Victoria Whitlock, director of EcoVillage, said: "We are extremely happy to be at The Kent County Show for the third year running.

"Despite tough economic times, it shows that environmental issues are very important to people and we can show there are ways to protect the environment without spending huge amounts of money."

This year the area covers more than 100 exhibitors and demonstrations including

Be sure to make a stop at this green and pleasant EcoVillage

Kent Wildlife Trust. Within the EcoVillage picnic area, Riverford Organic will be demonstrating how to cook with their organic vegetables, and Wildside Organic Grill will be there for those who like their organic food cooked for them.

There is also Fairtrade coffee from Carnival Coffee and an organic babyfeed and babychange area for parents within the Market Marquee

The Kent Bee-keepers will be present with demonstrations on bee-keeping and plenty of information on how to keep and protect the fragile bee populations.

EcoVillage organisers know that ethical and green businesses need to expand and reach out to new people, so part of village will enabled exhibitors to engage with a wide range of people and educate them about their products and services, while also broadening people's awareness of the importance of building a sustainable future.

But they emphasise that the EcoVillage is not just about creating a space for green and ethical companies to sell products.

They aim to give all exhibitors as much support as possible, priding themselves on a personal approach.



irmaidstoneschools



BREAK TIME



CHINESE CAMP: New Line Learning and Cornwallis Academy students will visit China

Pupils are under Asian influences

FOURTEEN students from New Line Learning and Cornwallis academies jetted off to China yesterday on a two week summer camp.

The pupils were accompanied by three members of staff and will spend time in Beijing visiting places of historical and cultural interest before moving on to host institutions in one of four provinces.

During their time in the provinces, they will spend at least 20 hours learning the Chinese language and will visit local and historical places of interest, where they will be involved in traditional Chinese activities.

The youngsters will also mix with fellow Chinese students and have the opportunity for home visits and stays with participating schools.

David Simons, Head of the Cornwallis

Academy, who is travelling with the party said: "The group are all very excited about the prospect of spending time in Chinese schools and experiencing a completely different culture.

Why nothing has stopped school reaching its potential

BY **DAN COLOMBINI**

SUTTON Valence headmaster Bruce Grindlay said there were times he feared the school was jinxed during his first year in

The head made the remark at the school's annual speech day, saying he had faced swine flu outbreaks, heavy snowfall, volcanic ash and management changes within the first few months of taking the top post at the independent Maidstone school.

He said: "Think of the Ten Plagues of Egypt and substitute the eight plagues of Sutton

Despite the difficulties, Mr Grindlay told parents and pupils they had cause for celebra-

"Our inspections revealed the school is in excellent health - and it also has the potential to be even better," he said.

GCSE and A-levels results have also been pleasing and continue to improve, showing that the school has managed to triumph despite the new headmaster's fears of misfortune.

Whilst stressing the importance of exam results, Mr Grindlay also believes that the school's real success was in the added value it gave pupils of all abilities.

"We regularly add significant value to all of our pupils and this is how we should judge ourselves. This is a very useful indicator of a good educational environment," he said. "Whether this is turning a D grade into a C or an A into an A* the improvement and achievement is comparable.



CELEBRATION: Bruce Grindlay talked about the challenges Sutton Valance has overcome during annual speech day

Mr Grindlay also said that it would be a sad indictment of society if its soul was defined merely by examination results and league tables. He then went on to cite examples of the Total Curriculum' which permeates Sutton Valence.

"The skills, lessons and experiences garnered through sport, music, art, drama, CCF and charitable work, teach children about leadership, teamwork, commitment and self-discipline."

The event also saw a host of prizes handed out to pupils from former Lord Mayor of London and Chairman of Governors of the Yehudi Menuhin School, Sir Alan Traill, who advised students not to be afraid to speak up against those who try to interfere in their

The greatest testimony to the success of Sutton Valence School, however, came from Head of School Nick Holmes who gave an outstanding speech, in which he said: "I came to Sutton Valence with no confidence in my own

"Today, I am proud and confident about what the future holds and to see the person I have

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DOVER COLLEGE IS A CO-EDUCATIONAL AND INDEPENDENT DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR PUPILS AGED 3-18

Senior ranks an option for savings

SENIOR ranks may be slashed from the Kent Police hierarchy as the new Chief Constable searches for £23 million of savings.

While staff and officer numbers were already expected to be reduced to tackle the three-year deficit, Ian Learmonth is refusing to rule out removing some of the highest positions in the force as well.

Norfolk Constabulary, his former employer, has already announced it is cutting the number of superintendents and chief superintendents by five and Mr Learmonth is now considering something similar for Kent.

There are 24 superintendents in Kent earning between £60,750 and £74,022 per year, and

BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

14 chief superintendents on between £72,543 and £76,680. The lowest ranked PC earns less than £23,000 per year. Mr Learmonth, who joined the force this month on £150,000 a year, said: "It's an area I want to have a look at but it's not just about reducing numbers, it's about the span of command in general and the need for a structure that's efficient and effective.

"We're going to have to look at the resources we've got, how we use them and if we can do things in a different way, and adjusting senior officer numbers is certainly something we would need to consider.

would need to consider.
"But particularly at times like this the organ-

isation needs good effective leadership, so I wouldn't want to streamline too much and risk causing more damage than good."

Mr Learmonth, 52, was Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk between August 2007 and June this year. He beat three other candidates to earn the right to replace former chief Michael Fuller, who left Kent in March to take up a new position as chief inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service. But Mr Learmonth joins the force at a time of great uncertainty due to a planned shake-up that would result in police authorities – which chief constables are currently accountable to – being replaced by 'commissioners' elected by the public.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes, who has previously voiced fears about such individuals being politically motivated, did not attend Mr Learmonth's first press conference as she was discussing the controversial plans with Home Secretary Theresa May.

plans with Home Secretary Theresa May.

Mr Learmonth said: "There is a degree of nervousness about the proposals, but that's mostly because of the lack of detail.

"From what I've read so far, the relationship between directly-elected individual and chief constable would be very similar, if not exactly the same, as it currently is between chief constable and police authority.

"But the idea is that if the public wants to get rid of this individual they can vote them out. It appears they're building that system in to ensure whoever lands the role is still fully accountable."

There's a sting in the tail of marine jellyfish survey

LOOK but don't touch is message about the jellyfish off Kent's shores.

Marine biologists are calling on people to look out for jellyfish and report them as part of a national survey so experts can see where the really nasty ones are.

Peter Richardson of the Marine Conservation Society said: "We have received sightings of 50 or more moon jellyfish off Viking Bay Broadstairs, which is fairly normal for this time of the year.

mal for this time of the year.

"There might be more out there and we would love to hear of any other sightings. Moon jellyfish are quite common around the UK coast and their sting is very mild."

Gatherings of jellyfish are known as blooms, and as the seas warm, more will appear, Mr Richardson said. He added: "We encourage holidaymakers and those in the water to take part in our survey and report encounters. But the key message is look, don't touch."

The aim of the survey is to understand more about where and when jellyfish occur.

It is part of a wider Marine Conservation Society programme to discover more about leatherback turtles who migrate to UK waters to feed on jellyfish.

To report a jellyfish sighting, check the MCS jellyfish photo-ID guide and download a recording form from www.mcsuk.org.



IN BLOOM: Jellyfish off the Kent coast

We rest our case





One way flight with one 20kg hold bag booked online*

In July and August this year it will cost over 3 times as much to book your 20kg hold bag online with Ryanair than easyJet.

Call for zero tolerance after violent attacks on 999 crews

AMBULANCE crews tending the sick and injured are being subjected to assaults and threats of violence on a weekly basis.

Figures reveal 107 assaults were reported by staff at South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb), which covers Kent, in 2008-09 – about two a week.

Nationwide there were 2,705 assaults between 2007-09, prompting calls by unions for a zero-tolerance policy where reported cases should lead to prosecution. Justin Bowden, GMB national officer for

Justin Bowden, GMB national officer for ambulance services, said the figures were "shocking" and "unacceptable".

"Every day at least three ambulance workers nationwide are assaulted while doing their jobs," he said.

"Prosecutions in the South East have more than doubled in two years, with 35 in 2008-09 compared with just 16 in 2007-08. A SECAmb spokesman said ambulance staff were encouraged to report all incidents of violence, threats of violence and verbal abuse and the trust makes it clear it is not tolerated as part of the job."

He added: "SECAmb continues to support campaigns to reduce violence against NHS staff, including the Your Choice of Treatment campaign was launched in 2008.

"Campaign posters are carried on frontline vehicles and deliver a clear message that people who assault NHS staff will face proscution and possible prison"

ceution and possible prison."

Last year, SECAmb security management specialist David Dixon and Unison representatives visited ambulance stations in Kent.

Mr Dixon said they continually advise employees they do not have to accept abuse from the public.

"We also want staff to know there are alternative measures available, such as private prosecutions, civil action and ASBOs, which can be taken against those who threaten them," he said.

easyJet.com

*Price based on a single item of hold baggage of more than 15kg and up to 20kg booked online one way. Prices vary depending on weight and number of hold bags. Prices applicable between 1 July and 31 August 2010. Prices correct as at 7 July 2010. See http://www.easyjet.com/asp/en/baggage for further details.

yourletters



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YOUR LETTERS

Our infrastructure's in a shambolic state



The reason we are in this state is that for too many years both Labour and Conservative governments played macho politics and kept outdoing each other by lower-

As a result of this policy we as a nation did not put enough money into public infrastructure

Our roads are in a terrible state, public transport is almost non-existent and our schools and hospitals were falling apart.

The job is now so big that it will take forever for us to have enough money to get the work done.

Mick Stevens, Maidstone. comment posted at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

The great rail fare robbery continues

Kent Green Party notes that transport minister Philip Hammond is proposing to remove the current system which links rail fares to inflation.

We already have the highest rail fares in the world. Proposed fare increases of six per cent for January, 2011, could be increased to ten per cent or more if the Government removes controls on rail fares. We have previously seen how substantial fares for new highspeed rail services have resulted in low take-up in Kent.

If commuters despair of the ticket prices and take to the roads, then the traffic congestion, noise and air pollution in many communities will get worse. We need an integrated approach to transport.

Rail fares should be cut, to increase passenger numbers and help keep congestion and pollution down. Suggestions of delays to the delivery of new carriages should be abandoned.

Supporting increased rail use is a clear priority if the Government means what it says about reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The railways are not a sensible area for cuts. Additional taxation is possible on cigarettes, alcohol and the highest incomes, as examples, and should have been achieved in the emergency Budget.

There is always an alternative to misdirected cuts in public spending and justifiable increased spending on the railway system is a clear

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party, by email

yourblogger

After recent shooting outrages, Derek Packham suggests that UK gun-users get a raw deal



NO ONE, it seems, can be honest after the recent deaths caused by deranged gunmen Derrick Bird and Raoul Moat but this subject has never been truly discussed by the majority.

The Parliamentary few, yes, who demolished thousands of jobs overnight through incompetent ranting which saw us landed with the 1968 Firearms Act.

However, one must consider reality – not the whims of a few, especially as we are entitled to own firearms in perpetuity, as declared in our Bill of Rights 1689.

Yet for years Parliament and the police have ignored this Bill, apart from using it to save themselves.

I, as a free person, present this to the people because it is our right – a right that the PC Brigade among others tries to deny us.

Today we have a multi-billion-pound industry wiped out by panic and hypocrisy.

Million-pound shooting ranges are built just for the Olympics, but our teams must practise overseas because of the reactionary and biased laws we endure due to the odd maniac blowing a fuse.

Reality shows that criminal use of firearms has risen and no manner of figure-twisting can hide that.

We had the strictest laws before the post-Dunblane panic mantra began, yet the blind have followed since. Now we see our Prime Minister using common sense rather than panic to gather votes. We have a

new debate on the horizon that could ensure our rights are finally upheld.

Facts show globally that, apart from America, countries with legal defensive arms have less criminal use,

less burglary and less murder.

They also have jobs, investment and development bringing billions into the economy, enhancing GDP.

Those countries are also performing far better than

our teams in the shooting sports.

There will be a debate again as there always is when a disaster arises.

But this time we have the option of reinstating rights lost, redefining our global manufacturing and sporting status and reinstating our sporting strengths, while redefining our discriminating and biased laws such as the Firearms Act, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Instruments 1980,1988, 1994, and not least the Hunting Act 2004.

It about time our true historic rights were upheld by those who serve us and not abused by the same.

All these Acts have failings, not least in their management, but also this undemocratic abuse of power which is also illegal under human-rights conventions.

The fact is that all the associated Acts could be set under one convention if our true Bill of Rights was followed, used as the true and only guidance that Parliament requires to get it right.

The Prime Minister should look at what is required not what the police want. Now we'll see if Parliament stands by its mandate for the people.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor. Simon Robinson, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Why I'm fighting employment law

The recession and the current squeeze on public sector finances has focused the attention of ministers, media and public on the pay and conditions of public sector executives who command six-figure

salaries, often in excess of £150,000. A simple but important question is being asked: are they worth it?

As leader of Kent County Council, I welcome this scrutiny. Those who receive high salaries from the public purse should be under no illusions that they must accept the closest possible scrutiny, and that their personal performance must match the size of their pay-packet. KCC is a £2.4 billion business

with over 45,000 employees. If we were a private company we would be roughly the size of John Lewis.

Such a large and complex enterprise needs the best leaders and managers possible to ensure services such as education, social care and transport are delivered effectively and efficiently.

There is a market rate for high quality professionals and the reality is that KCC must provide competitive salaries if we want to attract the brightest and the best.

I believe most residents accept this as an unfortunate necessity. However, what they cannot accept is when an executive in the public sector leaves - either after a very short period or when something

seems to have gone seriously wrong – only to walk away with a large pay-out.

This was most recently seen when the High Court instructed Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to pay its former chief executive £190.000 severance – despite 90 people dying in the superbug outbreak in 2007.

KCC has not been immune recent attention has focused on a former managing director of environment and regeneration who left in 2008 after only a year in post and who appears in our statement of accounts as having received £365,000 in the year he left.

The fact that this figure was not all a pay-off, but includes his salary for the year he worked for KCC and contractual notice period, does not detract from the size of the sum.

Questions and comments I have received, such as: "How can it be allowed?"; "A disgraceful waste of taxpayers' money"; and "You are rewarding failure" all reflect the public's anger and frustration.

I share that frustration. Not only as leader of KCC, but also as a taxpayer and in my professional life as a company director.

Why are such pay-offs made? More often than not, it is because there is a need to remove an executive for the wider good of the organisation. I have appointed many senior executives in my time at KCC and while the recruitment processes are rigorous, the reality is you only really discover the true nature of a person when they are in post

and required to make the big dayto-day decisions.

Sometimes things simply don't work out. Either an individual doesn't fit or finds it difficult to adjust, or the job is too big for them. What do you do in such circumstances? Employers then find themselves having to make decisions in a system that is heavily stacked against them.

There are few options. But the public does not understand the minefield that is employment law.

If the senior manager isn't competent or hasn't performed up to standard, the first option is to use the competency and performance framework to dismiss them.

However, complex rules govern this to ensure outcomes stand up to scrutiny in a tribunal or court. The process is protracted, bureaucratic and costly.

The executive stays in post, even though they aren't up to the job, and continues to get paid while doing damage to frontline services and morale.

That is not an option when you are dealing with executives in positions that are critical to service delivery. But it takes courage to do something about it, and taking quick action avoids a longer journey which costs more in the long run and disrupts the quality of our

In order to remove the employee as quickly as possible, employers are left in the perverse position of having to make a compensation offer to end the contract early.

The odds are heavily skewed in favour of the employee - and employment lawyers know this.

Even if the executive is on a fixed-term contract, we can't simply decide not to renew it and let the

Employment law and European regulation stipulate that the employer has to have a reason to end the contract and the legal options for ending it are often open to interpretation and challenge.

An employee whose fixed-term contract hasn't been renewed therefore has the right to take the employer to tribunal for dismissal.

Given the costs involved, many employers decide it is cheaper to come to a compromise agreement rather than risk the uncertainty and potentially higher costs – of an employment tribunal.

Instead of protecting individual employees from ruthless employers, current employment law has empowered ruthless employment lawyers (and those who can afford them) to take advantage of the system. We need to rebalance employment law in the UK so that it continues to protect individual employees, but is fair to employers and to the taxpayers.

Three fundamental changes need to occur. The first is that rules governing dismissal of highly-paid people on competency and performance grounds need to be changed to make it quicker and easier to do so while limiting the liability on the public sector employer.

Secondly, we need to reverse the legal changes - made in 1999 and 2002 - which removed the ability of employers to allow inclusion of what had previously been a common clause in fixed-term contracts - a waiver of a right to claim unfair dismissal simply on a contract's

expiry.
Thirdly, we need to have the power to insert fixed or annual break clauses which allows an employer to end a fixed-term contract early without it being classed as dismissal.

The coalition Government has questioned whether executive pay in the public sector is too high. Yes the pay is high, but it is high because it is the market rate.

The real issue - especially in the public sector but also in other sectors such as banking – is the com-paratively low level of personal risk senior executives are required to hold for their high salary because employment law places the majority of risk on the employer and too little on the employee.

I am lobbying the Government to

rethink this entire area of law and policy as it applies to senior managers as part of the wider comprehensive spending review coming this autumn.

The comprehensive spending review provides a clear opportunity to deal with this structural problem swiftly and decisively – so that as the public sector faces hugely difficult financial circumstances it is not restricted by employment law that adds unnecessary and unjustified costs to the shrinking public purse, and takes money away from frontline services.

Cllr Paul Carter, leader, Kent County Council, **County Hall, Maidstone**

Historic buildings crumble in crunch

HISTORIC buildings at risk of crumbling into non-existence are suffering further from the global economic downturn, says English Heritage.

The charity published its annual Heritage at Risk register this week, revealing that 101 castles, monuments and other listed buildings in Kent face the very real possibility of falling apart due to a lack of investment.

But it's not all bad news for the county, as two previously at-risk structures — the Montreal Park Obelisk in Sevenoaks and the barn at Westenhanger Castle near Hythe - have both been removed from the register.

Dr Andy Brown, English Heritage's regional director in the South East, said: "We have been monitoring the buildings for 10 years and what is telling is that for the first time we have not been able to make very much progress on the register.
"Some of these repair projects have not

been able to get off the ground, mostly because the recession means people are reluctant to put money in and are worried about what is over the horizon.

"But if people put off the low key main-tenance such as keeping the gutters clear and roof tiles straight to save money, it is such a false economy and you can end up with expensive projects.

The contents of this year's Heritage at Risk register were announced on Wednesday at the Grade I listed Hadlow Tower, near Tonbridge, which suffered damage in the great storm of 1987.

While the 19th century structure has been included on the register since its inception in 1999, plans are now well under way to bring it back into use as a holiday property.

Hole load more money needed for our roads

THE repair bill for Kent's potholeridden roads is expected to top £6.5 million – nearly double the last estimate for the work.

The county council-run 'find and fix' scheme has been running since the middle of April, and since that time an area the size of 46 Olympic

swimming pools has been re-laid.

The authority has already set aside £3.4m to repair the huge damage caused by last winter's cold snap, but the cash is expected to fall some way short of what is actually needed.

Čabinet members will be asked to approve an additional £1.5m funding at their meeting on Monday, July 12, to add to the £1.5m already saved through efficiencies at Kent Highway Services.

A report co-authored by cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard reads: "The find and fix approach is clearly showing favour with many people, however with the rate of repair significantly higher than usual, the cost is greater.
"We have continued to repair many of the

BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

county's worst roads and although there is still more to do, progress is good.

"On a find and fix approach it is inherently difficult to estimate the additional sums needed to complete the task.

"It is expected that the spend per road will start reducing as the project moves away from the worst roads to those with fewer defects."

As of June 22, Ashford had seen the most repairs with 1,801 and Dover the least with

In terms of the total size of the potholes, Tunbridge Wells tops the patching area league table with 6,778 square metres from its 885

So far a total of 57,000 square metres of road have been re-laid across all 12 districts excluding Medway, but it is estimated there is still another 170,000 square metres to go.

The roads being targeted are all 'non-principal' roads, ie, those which are not motorways, Aroads or B-roads, with local firms winning contracts to carry out the repairs.



FIND AND FIX: Council has put aside some money for fixing the potholes but it is thought it will run short

Motorways are the responsibility of the Highways Agency while A and B-roads are all being handled by the county council's contractor Ringway.

The cabinet report continued: "Kent Highway Services is planning to increase its programme for surface dressing rural roads over the coming two to three years, to be financed through re-prioritisation of existing capital maintenance spend.

"This will ensure the significant investment made through the find and fix programme is protected over the coming years.



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DAY & NIGHT

Sign up for talent show

TALENTED performers could win £1,000 in the Gimme A Break Talent Show at the Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne.

Bookings are now being taken for the November 7 and 14 rounds. Email countmein@rossfriday.com or visit www.gimmeabreaktalentshow.com to find out more.

Drama groups compete

LOCAL amateur dramatics groups are competing in the Duncan Rand One-Act Play Festival this week.

Running until Saturday, July 24, the festival takes place at the Medway Little Theatre in Rochester. To book tickets call 01634 400322 or go online at www.mlt.org.uk.

Invitation to artists

YOUNG artists, secondary school and sixth-form students in Medway are invited to enter the Bridge Wardens' Art

Prize 2011 competition.

The Rochester Bridge Trust is looking for a contemporary image on the theme of 'crossing the Medway', which could be a painting, drawing, photograph or any other 2D medium. For details visit www.rbt.org.uk.

The Crooner entertains

SINGER Martin Croones presents an evening of easy listening music in Maidstone this weekend.

Covering songs by icons like Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Neil Sedaka, Croones will be at Tovil Working Men's Club at 8.30pm on Saturday. Find out more at www.freewebs.com/thecrooner or emailing the crooner@talktalk.net

Mosaics workshop

LEARN how to make mosaics at Polka Dot Art Centre in Teynham.

Every Tuesday the centre in London Road hosts a workshop from 10am to 4pm. Take a three-week course for £33, including materials, or bring your own project and pay £4 per hour. For details go to www.polkadotac.co.uk or call 01795 521167.

Make song and dance

ANYONE who longs to both sing and dance could be in luck with the new Maidstone Show Choir.

The choir is open to anyone with enthusiasm, giving people the chance to sing musical theatre numbers and popu-

lar hits, coupled with fun choreography. Call Jess Walter on 01622 673645 or email maidstoneshowchoir@gmail.com.

Arts Forum meeting

ARTISTS and arts organisations are invited to discuss the future of Swale Arts Forum next week.

The independent arts development and promotional group will hold its first annual meeting at the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne, at 6.30pm on Thursday.

The meeting will be followed by an open discussion about what people want for the arts scene in Swale.

The best of Kent comes together

KENT COUNTY SHOW

Friday, July 16, to Sunday, July 18 Kent Showaround, Detlina

AN EXTRAVAGANZA of country fun is on offer as this year's Kent County Show focuses on farming.

From terrier racing to tractors, the three-day event offers visitors the chance to learn more about Kent's agricultural heritage, the future of farming and the origins of the food we eat every day. Experience great entertainment, learn something new about the countryside and enjoy a fun family day out at the traditional show

In the Why Farming Matters zone, there will also be cookery demonstrations, displays of machinery and a children's fun area, along with information on how to make a career in agriculture. The popular sheep show returns to entertain spectators and teach them about the process of sheep shearing and wool production.

The Young Farmers Area has been extended this year, and boasts a more prominent ring to accommodate the professional displays of livestock and small animals. It is hoped that more young people will be attracted to agriculture as a career and there will be representatives from a number of agricultural and rural companies, including Hadlow College.

Competitions

Packed with entertainment throughout the three days, the show's many highlights include livestock displays, riding competitions, ferret racing, a flower show and an area where children can meet small, furry animals.

In the Countryside Ring, spectators can be entertained by a wide variety of rural pursuits, such as fishing, birds of prey, terrier racing, dogs and ducks displays, donkeys, gundogs and foxhounds. Visitors to the Countryside Area can also see a mole show, ferret racing and more.

Motor enthusiasts will be in seventh heaven with displays of tractors, pre and post-war cars, steam engines, motorcycles, commercials and buses.

A new feature this year is the Village Green area, where visitors can enjoy traditional fetestyle entertainment including Punch and Judy Shows, a hula hoop workshop, maypole dancing, cricket on the green, Morris dancers, bell ringing and tug of war.

Live music at the Bandstand will add to the atmosphere, with performances by the Caribbean Melody Steel Band, Casablanca Steps, The KM Band, Divine ABBA, The Salvation Army, Churches Together and more.

There will even be a Guinness World Record attempt at the Ford and Fordson Expo VI, with the largest gathering of Fordson narrow and hop garden tractors to ever take place in preservation times.

More than 120 machines will be on display and it has taken organiser Rodney Gibson a





year to bring the special group of tractors

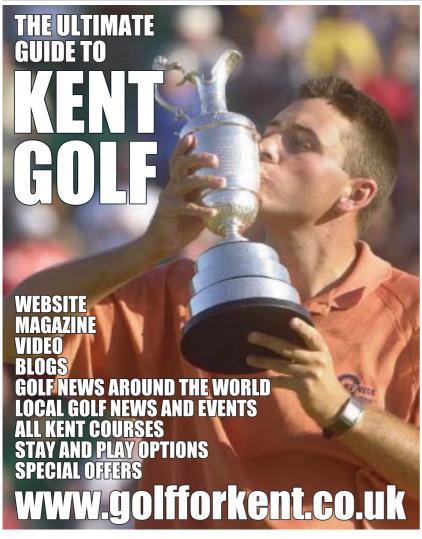
together.
Dating back to 1918, the collection of tractors will parade in the Main Brachers Astor Ring each day, with commentary from tractor journalist and author Peter Love.

In the main arena, the Royal Signals White Helmet Motorcycle Display Team will keep the

audience gasping with its exhilarating display of skill, performed on British Millennium Triumph 750cc motorcycles.

Tickets cost £15/£11 for adults and £5 for children. Visitors can apply for a complimentary child ticket for each adult ticket purchased in advance. To book call 01622 633060 or visit www.kentshow.co.uk









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YOUR LESUITE JANE CONNOLLY Email jane connolly@kosmedia.co.uk





CASTLE CONCERTS

Wednesday, July 14, to Sunday, July 18, Rochester Castle



TOP names in pop music and tomorrow's stars perform in the Castle Concerts this week.

Veteran rockers Status Quo get the party started tonight, and will be setting off air guitars everywhere.

Tickets have already sold out for Will Young's concert on Thursday, but there will be a double bill of star groups to enjoy on Friday, when street dance phenomenon Diversity supports girl group, The Saturdays. For more information about the group visit www.thesaturdays.co.uk.
The series draws to a spectac-

ular close on Saturday when the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra performs in the Castle Proms, with guest soprano Camilla Kerslake and classi-cal group Blake, followed by a

on Sunday, local youngsters aged from 13 to 19 will perform in the third Under Siege concert, covering everything from alternative rock to musical theatre. Admission is free.

To book, call 01634 338338, go to www.castleconcerts.co.uk, the Brook or Central Theatres in Chatham or the Medway Visitor Information Office.



THE WAR AND PEACE SHOW

Wednesday, July 21, to Sunday, July 25, The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

HISTORY comes to life in thrilling style this week at the world's largest military vehicle action spectacular.

Now in its 28th year, The War and Peace Show offers visitors of all ages the chance to learn about important periods in British history and see 4,000 fascinating vehicles. To mark the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, there will be reenactments of exciting battle scenes, along with war camps and trenches.

This year's event will be particularly poignant as the Spitfire 'Spirit of Kent' and the Messerschmitt 108 both make a

welcome return to the show, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

In their authentic wartime livery and looking in top condition, the aeroplanes are sure to make a moving spectacle when they swoop above the crowds. The Red Arrows will also pay a visit on Thursday.

Other attractions include helicopter fly-overs, tank manoeuvres, a model marquee, 1940s fashion, music and dance, a funfair, and live entertainment.

Find out more about the War and Peace Show online at www.thehopfarm.co.uk www.thewarandpeaceshow.com.

THEY WILL ROCK YOU

Thursday, July 22, Orchard Theatre, Dartford



SPEND an evening in the company of two legendary bands as They Will Rock You returns to Kent.

The brand new show marks the 35th anniversary of iconic song, Bohemian Rhapsody, by inviting audiences to enjoy the music of Freddie Mercury and Queen. They will be joined by a tribute to ABBA, offering a fantastic night out for fans of both rock

Queen B has performed for stars such as Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Richard Branson, bringing the sound of this unforgettable band back to the live stage. Fans can look forward to renditions of Another One Bites the Dust, We Are the Champions, the clas-

sic Bohemian Rhapsody and more.

Dancing queens will be in their element as ABBA Magic get those platform shoes tapping to the sounds of Mamma Mia, Super Trouper, Waterloo and Winner Takes It All.

The cast have just returned from a tour of Brazil and are ready to whisk audiences back in time with their polished music, vocals and choreography.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £19.50. Book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.



COMEDY CLUB

Friday, July 16, Tudor Park, Maidstone



THREE great comedians will be paying a visit to Maidstone this week when the Comedy Club rolls into town.

The evening will be kept in order by Scottish comic Paul Pirie, whose shows at the Glasgow Comedy Festival have been sell-out successes. In 2006 he earned second place in the Scottish Comedian of the Year Award.

Taking ordinary things and making them hilarious is the forte of observational comedian Dougie Dunlop, pictured. After starting out at The Stand in his home town of Edinburgh, Dunlop has gone from strength to strength and has been chosen to support a number of high-profile comedians on tour.

Not only is John Ryan an award-winning comic, but he is also appeared on a special edition of The Weakest Link just for comedians. He has explored men's health issues in his shows and is working on ongoing projects with the London Science Museum and Unison.

The show, which is suitable for over-18s, starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £14 or £12 for Comedy Club members. To book call 01622 632006 or visit www.hahaheehee.com for more information.

RITA HOSKING

Monday, July 19, Breeze Bar, Maidstone



FUELLED by a lifelong love of folk music, Rita Hosking has become an international music artist.

Blending folk, country and bluegrass, Hosking takes the memories of her child-hood growing up in the mountains of Shasta County, northern California, and pours them into her passionate sounds and

She first discovered music at church as a child and continued her education with an old-time jug band, made up of mountain characters with a wealth of experience between them. As a descendant of Cornish miners, Hosking has inherited a love of song, folk music and the power of the voice.

Her third album, Come Sunrise, has already attracted much acclaim and this tour will showcase some of her new songs. Before heading out on her UK tour, Hosking recorded an interview and session for Bob Harris Country on BBC Radio 2 and music lovers should not miss the chance to see her perform live.

She will be joined by Sean Feder on Dobro and banjo and Hosking will be co-headlining with Elizabeth Cook. The show starts at 7pm and tickets cost £14 in advance or £16 on the door. Call 01622 744481 or visit www.mavericklive.co.uk.





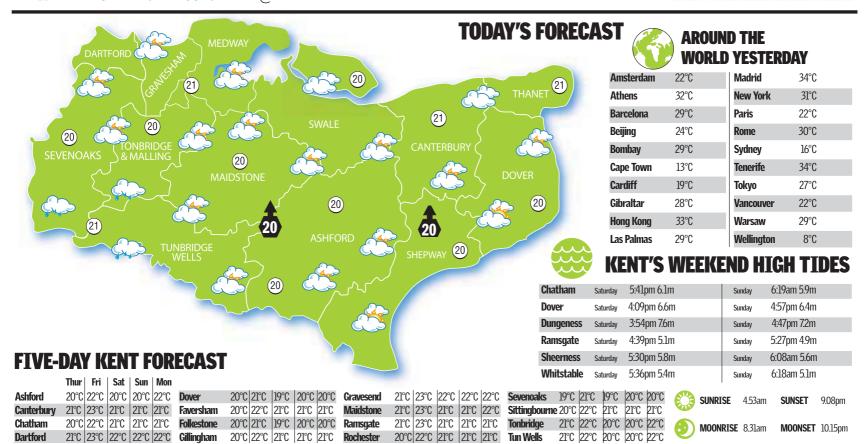
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music festival tickets

THE Sound Island Music festival returns to Quex Park later this month, giving music fans the chance to see a host of stars by the sea.

Madness will headline the first day of the Margate weekender, on Saturday, July 24, with support from Lightning Seeds and The Blockheads.

A number of emerging pop stars will perform at the same venue the following day, with boyband JLS the main draw.

KOS Media have a pair of tickets for JLS and a pair of tickets for Madness, have a look at the lineups below and see which one you would

Saturday, July 24 lineup:

Madness

Lightning Seeds The Blockheads

King Blues

(Car park 3pm – Gates 4pm – Concert 5pm) Sunday, July 25 line-up:

Alex Gardine

RD (Rough Diamondz)

The Score

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of Saturday tickets to the concert, to watch Madness and Special Guests, just answer this

question: What type of trousers do Madness sing about in one of their songs?

To enter, simply text your answer to 80012 Messages cost 50p. The text line closes at minight July 20, 2010, and the lucky winner w

Ingili 50ty 24, 2010, and the facky willine is be notified by July 21, 2010. Messages cost 50 No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303817073. For informat on running mobile based marketing and promotions for your brand please contact (01843) 822916 or

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of Sunday tickets to the concert to watch JLS just answer this ques-tion: What reality TV show shot JLS to fame?

Big Brother Fame Academy

X Factor

To enter, simply text your answer to 80012. Messages cost 50p. The text line closes at midnight July 20, 2010, and the lucky winner will be notified by July 21, 2010. Messages

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303817073. For information on running mobile based marketing and promotions for your brand please contact (01843) 822916 or info@textback.org.









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buy local • shop local • support local

What's in this supplement

INDEPENDENT businesses are the 'backbone of the economy' according to contributor Nick Rowell on page 27.

In a world where it is all too easy to fall into the supermarket clubcard mentality - just because it's easy – there are thousands of small businesses offering the customer something special.

This supplement looks to celebrate some of the independent business successes and, of your money locally.

And for a few of you, it may provide the inspiration to set up your own business or to

It is all too easy to become dragged down by the economic doom mongers and this supplement is a celebration of some of our most successful small businesses and a reminder that there is life after the credit crunch.

And it is the independent traders who are leading the way...

Page 25

Why small businesses will lead Britain out of recession, and may offer you an opportunity for

Pages 26-27

Why independent entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy and deserve your support.

Page 28

How putting customers first has earned award-winning success for a family-owned garage

Page 29

And the independent motorcycle retailer whose independence attracts customers from across the

Page 30

The boss of another award-winning small company with a solid growth record, reveals his secret of

Pages 30-31

The landscape gardening firm with a environmental belief that's blossomed after only eight years.

Pages 32

There are so many opportunities for you to benefit from independent traders who offer

Pages 33

Why we are lucky to have some of the best local food and produce in the country and we talk to the boss of a company that is bringing the very best right to your doorstep.





WHAT'S your choice: employed or self-employed? In the current economic climate, no one is safe.

And yet, there is a very strong case with compelling evidence that says the self-employed are better placed to survive than those who are employed – whatever their level.

It's not just that employed work is in big danger, it's also a critical factor that third world markets are fast catching on to capitalist values, and many in those cultures are prepared to work very hard for very little money.

pared to work very hard for very little money. Have you ever been to a street market in India or Africa, where those traders are selling like their lives depended on it? Well, the truth is, their lives do depend on it.

And those suppliers are already a big and growing part of our business culture here in

For example, lots of IT services are being sourced from abroad, and this is by small businesses here, including sole traders.

If I'm making employment look less attractive, then I'm only telling you how it is.

So what are the advantages to being a sole trader?

As a sole trader, you can react and adapt to market changes quickly without needing to get approval from somebody higher up.

You can come up with new services or products quickly to meet the changing needs of the market, something which the large multinationals can't do in a hurry.

And what you create for your customer is more choice, more local service (no call centre to wait for) and closer, more intimate relationships with your customer (if you do it right).

Small businesses are the future of our economic success – support them

This offers a big advantage to the small business, because no one likes the call centre or the impersonal service. If you simply design your business so that someone answers the phone promptly and gives the customer real individual attention, you will stand out.

But don't get complacent just because you already have your own successful small business. I recently bought a new Dell laptop and was blown-away with the after-sales and warranty support, even though I hadn't bought it (the warranty, that is). Their phone calls to me (yes, that's

right, they called me back a total of six times)

were from India and they over-delivered big time in relation to my expectation.

Over the next five to ten years, I guarantee that having your own business will become a massive advantage. This is going to become – and already is for some – the decade of the entrepreneur.

People with ideas, who can turn ideas into products, who can package those products, and find customers who really like and will pay for those products, will do well.

But it will need more than just that, of course. And so to my first MUST: Do what the high-flyers do and 'take responsibility'. This is the common factor you see in those who are massively financially successful. They never look for excuses or reasons why not. They always accept that they are the cause, and the effect. Whatever they try, whether it succeeds or fails, is just another bit of learning and what they take from every failure is a growing opportunity to get closer to the idea that will work.

In order to succeed, you MUST go out there and fail! Napoleon Hill, author of think and grow rich said, 'Every failure brings with it the seed of an equivalent success.' That's what the big guys do. If you want to take advantage of our financial situation now, just go out there and try, and then try again and then try again. And then, just like Branson, or Trump, or Sugar, maybe you too will finally lose your virginity!

• Written by QJ, The Extreme Inspirationist.

• Written by QJ, The Extreme Inspirationist. QJ leads inspirational, practical seminars showing businesses how to make more money and how to leverage their relationships to greater profit at the next level.

For more information or for regular inspiration, see www.theinspirationist.com, email: qj@theinspirationist.com, or call 0800 840 609.

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See more from QJ in some of his inspirational videos on YouTube



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A positive future for the independents

By Jo James, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Chief

66 I think Nick's piece neatly encapsulates the philosophy of and the importance to the economy of the independent

As a Chamber of Commerce we, of course, support the entire business community, which includes everybody from sole traders to multinationals. It has to be



said, however, that the majority of our members, and the majority of business within the area of our remit, are independents

Indeed there is no doubt that the economic structure of this country is largely dependent on inde-pendent traders, always has been and probably always will be. It must also not be forgotten that from 'little acorns, mighty oak trees grow'. Even today's multi-national corporations, including the 'too big to fail' financial institutions, must surely have started out as part of what we now call the independent sector.

Public institutions, national and local, also depend heavily on input at their roots by smaller, independ-

So the independent sector can definitely be regarded as the backbone of our economy. It deserves both the recognition and support of all us to ensure that the backbone remains strong and supple.

"MY father was a yeoman, but had no land of his own; only he had a farm ... and hereupon he tilled so much as kept half a dozen men.

So begins bishop Hugh Latimer's first sermon preached before Edward VI. He goes on to explain how this same farm's income enabled his father to enlist as a soldier at the King's call-up, provide modest dowries for his daughters, and even pay for Hugh's schooling.

Backbone

It's often said that independent business is the backbone of the economy - and it's true: 98 per cent of businesses employ less than 50 people, and owner-run firms provide 58 per cent of Britain's jobs and an even bigger share of new jobs and business innovation. Trevor Baylis and James Dyson represent the tip of the iceberg. What Latimer's account also illustrates is how independent business is the back-bone of society itself. Being your own boss isn't just to "not dread a peevish master": it empowers you to contribute to the common wealth.

Kent exemplifies this. Regular surveys by the British Chambers of Commerce show members of Kent's biggest Chamber, the Kent Invicta, less hard-hit by the recession and quicker to recover

than elsewhere in the UK or even the rest of the South East.

Why? Well, we live in a beautiful, invigorating county, with long traditions of independent thought and action. Today this translates into two economcharacteristics.

First, many of us trade with people we've known for ier to judge when it's wise to extend credit (literally 'trust'). Second, many already own premises and means of production, and so are less indebted, with lower overheads.

This resourcefulness is good, and benefits every-



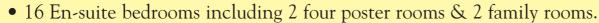
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Nick Rowell is director of policy at Kent's Invicta Chamber as well as running his own company, the Portable Business School. Here he looks at the reasons independent and small bussinesses are vital to our economy and why they deserve public support



one. The risk, as we notice global prosperity happening elsewhere but not reappearing here, is that our relative comfort will delay the one step most likely to improve our fortunes, and our children's. I mean a drive to leave our comfort zone and find new markets, by innovating and especially by exporting. The fact is, as things stand today we are collectively heading for the doldrums. The only future common wealth is if we yeomen make it happen. Even inward investment from outside Kent, unless we make it a springboard and grow our own enterprises, doesn't foster the necessary capital to endow the future life we hope for.

Challenge

In War and Peace Tolstoi reflects on the arrogance of different nations. The Frenchman, he writes, is arrogant because he knows he is irresistible to men and women alike; the Italian is arrogant because — well, he's not really arrogant, just excitable. The Englishman is arrogant because he knows that he knows, already, everything worth knowing; and the Russian is arrogant because he knows that nothing is worth knowing.

Now, 200 years on, most of us can see enduring truth in these caricatures. Our opportunity and our challenge as owner-managers is this: to rest impotently on what we feel we know – or to sharpen up? Are we going to get into better shape, physically and organisation-

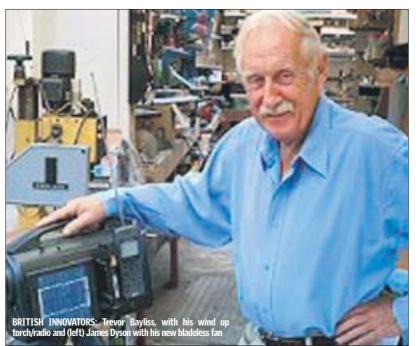
ally; to learn new skills; to take the risk of rejection by a hoped-for customer, learn our lesson and press on; to invest time, energy and cash in the hope of planting our banners – ie of transplanting our brands, for they are today's banners in peacetime – into places where they will flourish and draw new subscribers to buy into them?

I don't mean to be jingoistic about this (though Kipling's "If" is well worth taking to heart). The fact is, only our best efforts will do: the global competition is very determined and increasingly well-resourced. Our brands will only flourish if, after analysing our offer, we gear up to deliver exceptional value in distinctive ways that are hard to copy. We may supply goods and services abroad, mostly based on our culture or technical know-how.

Or we may, in markets abroad, promote our home strengths: tourism, for which Kent is so well-endowed; and study opportunities in English or skills we're rich in such as biosciences, IT software, or 'green' construction technologies.

Whatever strategy we pursue, success as ever will stem from our own vision and enterprise – funded, in the continuing absence of healthy banks, by ourselves.

• Nick Rowell is managing director of the The Portable Business School, a management development and consultant company. Tel 01622 753568, www.Tpbs.co.uk.









Putting customers first it's a winning formula

A COMMON sense approach to customer service has meant one Ashford independent garage has managed to trade successfully for

D & D Autos on Orbital Park, is a family-run firm started by Derek Pestridge. It was winner in this year's Invicta Chamber of Commerce customer service award.

His daughter Lorraine Fuller who also works there said: "To get the prize was really exciting. We are an independent business and obviously garages do get a bad press for cus-tomer service but we have always had stringent checks that we have to have regarding customer service anyway.

"My dad thinks surely everyone looks after their customers like we do but we must be doing something different because of the testimonials we get from people and the fact they keep coming back."

Mr Pestridge started the business with one service bay at a site in Victoria Road but last year moved to purpose-built premises at the trading park.

Mrs Fuller said: "My dad bought a piece of land built the new garage on it. We moved there in February 2009. It was a challenge amidst the recession but we had outgrown the old premises and our hands were tied to some degree because the Victoria Road is going to be redeveloped as part of the new Victoria Way

At least the recession meant people were hanging on to their old cars which still needed to be serviced. And the new facilities meant the business could grow and expand into areas it was not able to cover before

Mrs Fuller said: "We have drive-through MOT bays. We have invested in computerised wheel alignment equipment, tyre fitting facilities and new diagnostic equipment. Being a general garage we have to service many more makes and models than a main dealer so our investment in that equipment has to be broader.

We now hope to be able to do fleet servicing because we have thirteen workshop bays and we are less restricted by our surroundings.

D & D autos were also highly commended in

the business of the year category.
"Our customers were really pleased for us.
We had letters of support. Once people have someone they know and can trust to look after their car you almost become like a family

"It's just common business sense really, if you treat your customers well and do the best you can for them then they will come back. We treat people how we would expect to be treated."



Get on

BY JILL HURST

IF YOU are planning on buying a motorbike vou won't do much better than The Bike Shop in Faversham.

Based in The Mall this independent trader has been on the go since 1977 and won a plethora of awards including best South East dealer in 2008.

bike enthusiasts Dunderdale and three times Isle of Man Grand Prix winner Thomas Knight each of their six employees is a bike enthusiast – perhaps the secret to this team's success.

Success

Sales Manager Gareth Peppin,48, joined the firm in 2006. He said: "We all love bikes and I think this is the key to our success. I moved to Kent and wanted to work with bikes and so came here. I genuinely look forward to coming to work.

"I think our strength is we pride ourselves on a personal customer service. We know all our customers by their first name and we have never had a complaint in the four years I've been

Gareth believes the high level of customer satisfaction is earned by not stretching the operation too far, providing a unique selling point when up against large corporations.

The difference between us and the big companies is that we are not a production line. We sell around 300 bikes each year and that's



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enough. We don't offer huge discounts but sell at the price a bike is supposed to be. This way we can offer a one-to-one service and the customer leaves more satisfied."

The store is a Yamaha Franchise and runs with a day-to-day stock of around 100 bikes ranging from a Yamaha 125 scooter retailing at £1,600 to a £20,000 Yamaha V-Max. It also carries a large stock of second hand bikes of various models.

The staff also offer a complete service for novices taking care of everything from insurance to registration.

"A new learner could pick up something like a Yamaha YBR 125, learner bike for around £2,300," Gareth explained.
"This would include their insurance and we'd also organise a one day com-

petence test, required to get them on the road until they take their bike test in about two years on."

Co-owners
Tony and Tom
have worked
hard to make
sure the shop is
an integral part
of the historic
market town's
sponsoring the
annual classic
car and bike
show and sup-



porting speedway and grass track racing.

Tony is an active member of the vintage bike group in the town and according to Gareth has built up a fierce reputation as a bike technicism.

"Tony is a fantastic bike technician and this brings people in from all over the country. He does tend to bring customers in from all over the place."

London Rd

Badgers Mount

Sevenoaks

It's clear talking to Gareth that his passion

for bikes runs through his veins and this really is what sets The Bike Shop apart.

Shopping Village Bearsted Road,

Maidstone

To find out more about The Bike Shop in Faversham visit www.thebikeshopfaversham.co.uk or telephone 01795 532365.







Entrepreneur shows award-winning strength

THE latest Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce entrepreneur of the year says his success is due to having a bold approach to business despite the recession.

David Evans is joint managing director of Sunray,

a leading manufacturer of high-specification steel doors, based in Ashford.

He said: "Over the last three years the company has gone from strength to strength. We have doubled our turnover, increased our workforce from 21 to 42 and won business of the year award in Kent for two years running. We were then third in the national finals. We are now per-



MAN OF STEEL: David Evans

ceived as one of the market leaders. We have invested heavily in plant and people and the business is growing well."

"Customer focus is also important. We have to be flexible. We have the fastest lead times and are capable of changing and completing orders very quickly."

However, he is realistic about the difficult times ahead and how companies can be hit by things outside their control.

He said: "We had a detailed business plan and we have stuck to it. Our view is when we come out of this recession; we want to be in a fitter position. It is a bold attitude but we monitor things very closely."

The company has had to deal with a massive hike in steel prices which went up 38 per cent overnight. Mr Evans said: "That has a huge impact on us. We have to see whether we pass that on to our customers or whether we absorb it."

Mr Evans has sat on the Business Link Advisory Board, and is now a member of the chamber's economic development group.

Twigging on to business survival

AN independent landscaping and environmental company priding itself on flexibility and a "chameleon like" ability to go with the business flow has been recognised for its skills.

Lamberhurst-based Twig Trading was judged as winner of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2010

The company's managing director David Eyre was also a runner-up in the awards' entrepreneur of the year category.

Twig's experts have a wide range of skills from garden design to tree surgery to bricklaying and always ensure they take an environmental approach to managing the land.

Following growth in the business since 2002, Mr Eyre said he now plans to take on four extra staff in the coming months.

The firm added four staff to its team of six last year to carry out the treeplanting work at Thanet Earth – a pioneering glasshouse fruit and vegetable growing project.

Mr Eyre said: "It is an amazing feeling to have won the business of the year accolade. I am very proud of the tireless hard work the team put in. These awards recognise our val-



ues and the importance we place on conservation when carrying out landscaping and countryside management projects."

Mr Eyre founded the company in 2002 and over the past year, the team planted 19,100 trees

Twig has almost doubled in size year-onyear for the past three years. Mr Eyre employs 10 people and expects to take on four more staff in the coming months to carry out work on education projects.

The firm has been designing new grounds for Sissinghurst Primary School, including performance areas, outdoor classrooms, wildlife walks and vegetable plots.

Twig has also created a sensory garden at a school for children with additional needs in Gravesend, while in Berkshire it has been building a beach-themed play area. In Essex, the team is developing a wildlife and vegetable and flower growing area for a primary school.

An article on how to grow your own dinner was also a popular read in KOS Media's Tunbridge Wells newspaper.

Mr Eyre's wife Miranda has been instru-

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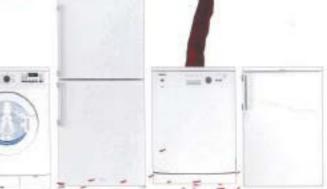
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Kent's Business of the Year winner Twig Trading was established in 2002 and has doubled in size each year since 2006. Nick Ames spoke to the husband and wife team behind a company that offers expertise in landscape gardening and land management with strong environmental principles and discovered a company that is looking forward to the future



mental in the growth of the business. She said: "We started when my husband really saw a gap in the market. He comes from a farming background - he loves being outdoors.

"We saw that a lot of people were moving into the countryside from London - but basically hadn't really got a clue as to what to do with the land.

"I came up with the name Twig-I wanted it to be memorable and we both realise marketing is very important. Then there's networking. David is extremely good at that aspect of the business.

Twig was going along smoothly but then came the recession which hit so many con-

Mrs Eyre said: "Our domestic business dropped and although we already had a couple of commercial clients that is the area we thought we should expand into. We put the emphasis on the business side

"Rather than just look at the situation around us and say we cannot do what we used to do, we knew we had to change and accept the reality of the economic situation.

"It was rather like being a chameleon

roundings. Adapting to the market and how it was changing was very important and we were able to do that."

The company was thrilled at the award.

To be honest you never think you are going to win – you always think someone is doing what you are doing only better," said Mrs Eyre. "But it seems we have been singled out for

our ability and that is an immense source of pride to all of us at Twig.'

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge was the venue for an awards ceremony and dinner.

A total of 130 people attended the event established in 2005 which has become one of the most prestigious business awards in the

The judging panel which made the difficult choices from a record number of entrants was made up from all aspects of the county's busi-

Twig has a team of 12 including Mr and Mrs Eyre and one of its secrets for moving forward is to ensure everyone works together

– and knows they are appreciated.

Mrs Eyre said: "We really do have a great team and what I feel is so important is that we thank them.

"Not with huge sums of money - just saying thank you can be so important to keeping up feelings of team spirit and working together. It is something I feel has contributed in a great way to our success.



TWIG has branched out into midwifery for plants with the launch of a new campaign for mums-to-be.

The company is calling on family and friends to plant a tree for newborns and young ones in the Maternitree campaign which aims to raise awareness of the link between population and our environment.

"Cut back on the plastic and the throw-away toys you give your baby and plant a tree that lasts for life instead," said Twig's managing director, David Eyre.

"Mums and dads can plant a sapling tree in their garden, or in a pot and watch the tree grow with the baby. It's a great way of putting children - and their families - in touch with the rhythm of nature, tending to the





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Why local is important

THESE days, when most people do the majority of their shopping in giant supermarkets, out of town shopping complexes or city centre malls, it can be difficult to draw attention to a small business trading locally.

But with concerns being raised over community cohesion, social inclusion and the environ-ment, local business has never been more important.

It's down to enterprising business owners to promote the importance of supporting local businesses so that the public understand why it matters and how it can benefit whole com-

And it is down to the shopper to consider their own actions and what happens to their towns and communities if they turn their back on the many independents.

Why do people shop with the big chains?

In order to tackle the trend toward supermarket shopping, it's important to understand why people choose it. Research indicates that the reasons they most frequently cite are the variety of products available and the convenience of having them all in one place.

Yet choice is so often better, and certainly wider ranging, from individual retailers.

So retailers need to get that message across. Remind people how convenient it is to have a lot of small shops offering different products and services located in the area, and how convenient it is to be able to shop close to home.

It's OK to admit that big business has the



edge in some areas if you stress that there's a cost to this. For instance, you could have a poster featuring a pint of milk which acknowledges that it's cheaper in the supermarket but points out how much less time is spent if it can be picked up nearby, so that it still pays to shop locally.

Why local produce is important

Businesses that purchase products locally, should remind customers that shopping with you means supporting local producers and cutting down on the environmental costs of long distance transport.

If you sell food, it also means getting fresher produce. And remind customers of the obvious thing: local businesses mean local jobs and increased opportunities for local people.

This in turn encourages the young to stay in

the area and become positively involved with the community. It cuts out the daily commute for many people and makes their working lives more pleasant. The Federation of Small Businesses runs regular campaigns on these issues, thereby getting the support of a strong backer with good media expertise and funding.

Work together

It can be tough for a small business to make much of an impact on its own, but when you work together with others you can achieve much more. Organise local festivals to promote the diversity of businesses in the area.

This in itself is a reason for shopping there. Tourist guides will list shops that are unusual.

Look after the customers who already

A significant number of people prefer to do



DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN: (Left) Servicing and car repairs are often best carried out by established, independent garages who do not carry main dealer overheads; and above, local produce bought locally is environmentally more sound

business locally precisely because they see supermarket promoters and big chains as unduly ruthless and unscrupulous. Make sure they know that your business is different and that people should support you not just because they don't like your rivals but because you have lots to offer to the local community.

Finally, don't forget to support local businesses vourself.

When any business needs a new product or service, look around to see if you can source it within your local area. This can make your life a lot easier, it can help to build business relationships where it really matters, and it gives you the opportunity to lead by example, showing people how it should be done.

Thanks to www.localbusinessenter $prise. co. uk\ for\ help\ preparing\ this\ article.$



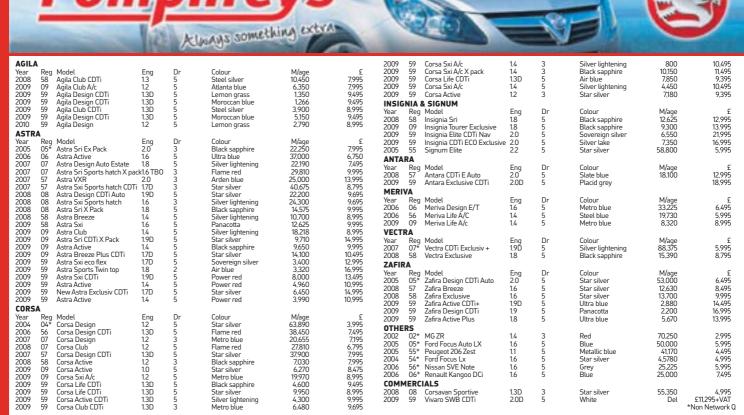












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SUMMER means changes. We go on holiday. We take more days out. We eat outside. We drink outside. We change our lifestyles.

Yet, so often, while we allow our lives to be altered, for reasons long since lost in the global marketplace, we have lost touch with what the seasons mean to our intake of food and drink.

Because due to supply chains established by the major supermarkets, you can eat strawberries all year round. Asparagus is available 365-days-a-year.

But our reliance on foods being flown in from all four corners of the world has repercussions.

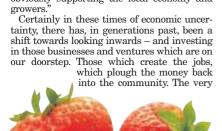
Jonathan Parker runs FoodforKent.co.uk an online venture operated out of a farm in Aldington, near Ashford. Its mission is simple. To supply, wherever possible, locally sourced food and drink in one place.

So just why should the seasons dictate our

So just why should the seasons dictate our eating habits?

"We should eat seasonally and local where possible because firstly produce should arrive with you fresher, better quality, and it shouldn't have had to travel so far," explains Mr Parker.

"It also means we connect with the seasons and eat produce when it's at its best. As well as obviously supporting the local economy and growers."



Good for the environment

Buying your fruit and vegetables locally brings a host of benefits: as well as being good for you and arguably tasting better, it actually reduces the cost of transport both in cash terms and environmentally. **Chris Britcher** met Jonathan Parker who set up foodforkent.co.uk, which delivers a huge selection of local produce, including fish, meat and poutry direct to your door

foodforkent.co.uk

nake sense. It also mean

glue, which keeps the communities together in the first place.

So that's the local economy ticked. Need more persuading? Then what about the classic environmental issues?

Mr Parker said: "In a time where food on a worldwide basis is at a shortage and oil prices are spiralling and so on and so forth, to eat produce that is being grown just down the road has got to make sense. It also means we are reducing our imports in the most basic sense. And of course, finally and very importantly, we are reducing our carbon footprint through the food that we eat.

through the food that we eat.
"The great thing for us in Kent is that we are blessed with not only some really fertile soil which grows diverse produce, from the very best potatoes to the best fruit, but also we

have sea on three sides so we have some wonderful fish and some great meat too."

"When you ask most people if they like local produce and want to eat seasonally, then invariably they say yes," explains Mr Parker. "When you ask whether or not they do, they invariably say no. Because they go to the supermarket and they walk past a beautiful bread counter and buy their bread there. Then they see all these other fantastic products, and it's all very convenient.

"We aren't trying to compete with the supermarkets head-on because the supermarkets have grown to the size that they are, by doing a very good job.

"What we can offer is a real insight into good quality local food and a personal service and if our customers want to pick up the phone and call us and get a little bit of information about where their strawberries have come from or indeed where their meat was from, the provenance, we're all ears.

"It's a tough market, but where we are, people continue to need to eat, so if we offer a product which is cost effective, people will continue to buy it.

"In 20 years time when supermarkets own huge swaths of land and grow carrots at 25p per kilogramme that don't taste of anything and stuff not used gets put in the bin, I think people will be screaming out for a change."



SEASONAL TASTE: Asparagus and strawberries are something to look forward to fresh during summer months



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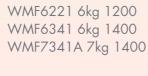












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MOTORS NEWS



Mean load-lugger from Skoda most economical

SKODA claims to have produced its most eco-friendly model ever – the new $\pounds 13,740$ Fabia Greenline II Estate.

It averages around 80mpg and emits a road tax exempt 89g/km of CO2 – it's good for 932 miles on a single tank of fuel, says Skoda. It uses a new three-cylinder 75bhp turbocharged diesel engine and the Czech make has loaded the car with £800 of extra standard equipment, against the model it replaces, including cruise control, electronic stability programme, stopstart function and tyre pressure monitor.



Hyundai makes savings in green and blue hue

TWEAKS to the aerodynamics and engine have resulted in bigger fuel savings for Hyundai's i20 three/five-door supermini (from £9,520).

In addition to this green benefit though, the Korean marque also has some blue news: the dashboard and instrument illumination is now blue in the style of VW rather than red and Bluetooth phone connectivity with voice recognition is now standard on all models except the entrylevel Classic. All i20s come with air con and electronic stability control.



New Volvo's economy also offers great style

VOLVO is about to launch its most important car for ages – the all-new S60, available to order from £23,295 ahead of launch later this month.

Racy styling builds on the current car's sleek lines, without carrying over its handling deficiencies. Engines include an all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine capable of a combined 54.3mpg, delivering economy combined with style, though the familiar Volvo twin-turbo D5 powerplant also sgive 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds yet averages more than 50mpg.



FLASH OF GENIUS: The Spark replaced Chevrolet's popular Matiz and has enhanced its appeal as an mini-MPV's by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back

Chevrolet's bright spark

CHEVROLET'S new Spark city car needed to be good for the money after following on from the popular Matiz.

But the latter bowed out to some stunning deals so, on the face of it, the newcomer (£6,945-9,845) was always bound to look dearer.

Closer inspection of the crisply-drawn highroof five-door Spark though, with its fashionably concealed rear door handles, actually shows it to be better value than the old stager.

As the Spark's profile implies, it is a spacious small car and Chevy has enhanced its appeal as a mini-MPV by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back, although it would be tight for three adults.

The Spark is currently available with 68PS (67bhp) 1.0-litre or 82PS (81bhp) 1.2-litre petrol engines; I haven't been able to drive the former, but the latter endows the little car with decent acceleration and the ability to cope with motorway hauls.

Okay, it is not the quietest and most refined small hatchback, but it rides well and the relatively high body does not loll into the bends —

ROAD TEST CHEVROLET SPARK

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

no mean feat. Mid-range LS trim (from £8,445) is the most popular and brings remote central locking, interior upgrades, front fog lamps and a body-coloured rear spoiler.

And that seems logical after road testing the 'blinged up' LT flagship with electric windows all round, heated electric mirrors, roof bars, steering wheel audio controls, 15-inch alloys, climate control, exterior body kit and six-speaker stereo.

That takes the Spark to a less appealing £9,845 and a fairly ridiculous stance with those rails perched on a lofty roof.

And while the Spark cabin is quite eyecatching, with a retro display of gauges on top of the steering column, interior materials are a bit cheesy and actually look worse on the LT where some trays and bins are lined with a chrome finish likely to scratch badly with wear and tear — one of my regular observations on Chevrolets.

I also found the driver's seat uncomfortable; there is a shaped bolster at the back of the seats that I presume is designed to prevent you sliding around too much, but it just made my backside numb – maybe it was a problem with the test car.



"

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2004 MERCEDES E CLASS CDi avantgarde, black, auto/man, 46k fsh, half leather trim£11,995
1999 VW GOLF 2.3 V5 AUTO, rarely available, immaculate£2,995
1998 BMW Z3 2.8, manual, elec roof, alloys£4,995
2003 MINI COOPER CHILLI PACK, 3dr hatch, manual, 55k, alloys£6,195
2006 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 3dr, Met blue, 40k Manual£5,195
2002 VAUXHALL VECTRA 3.2 V6 AUTOMATIC, 5dr, blue, 60k£3,495
1999 GOLF 2.3 V5 AUTO - rarely available, 5dr, red, immaculate£2,995
2000 BMW 523i 4dr saloon, auto, dark met green, all usual refinements, fsh, great condition£2,995
2003 MG ZS DIESEL, yellow, 5 door hatchback, manual, CD radio, immaculate£2,495
2003 MG ZS 2.5 V6, 5dr, 59k, red, alloys£2,495
2001 VAUXHALL CORSA 1200 CLUB AUTOMATIC, 3dr, Silver, 45k£2,495
2003 CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE, 3dr hatch, silver,£2,195
2004 PEUGOT 607 HDi saloon. Silver, manual, alloys, luxury and economy£4,495
2003 CITROEN C3 1.4 5 door, black£3,495
2001 ALFA ROMEO 2.0 LUSSO, 4dr saloon, silver, leather, autocluch, 67k, all electrics£1,995
2001 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 AUTO, silver



2004 Peugot 607 HDi Diesel, manual, alloys, CD, silver, 2.0, luxury and economy at



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2002 MG ZS 5 door hatchback, 2.5 V6, red/black half leather trim, CD, Alloys etc, etc

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1997 VW GOLF 1.8 CABRIOLET met green, black hood, only 72k, from new£2,595
1998 BMW Z3 2.8 manual, blue with black elec roof, alloys, wide wheel arch model£4,995
P/X BARGAINS TO CLEAR
1999 PEUGEOT 406, 4dr saloon, 66k, fsh, silver, manual£1,995
2000 PEUGEOT 106 GTi 1600, 3dr hatch, red, alloys, a really quick and eye-catching example£1,995
1999 VW GOLF 1.6 SE newshape, 5dr hatch, light green, 68k£1,995
1997 FORD SCORPIO ULTIMA, auto, 4 door luxury saloon, green, E/S/R, alloys, immaculate for year, 37k
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2000 FORD ESCORT 1.6 FINESSE, silver, alloys

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57 MERCEDES - BENZ GL CLASS 320 CDi 4 MATIC ,18,000 mls, Sat Nav, Electric pack, Silver, Full leather trim, privacy glass, fully loaded. Available for£34,995
05 BMW 530 DIESEL SPORT. Automatic M'Tec Design, Sat Nav, silver with full black leather trim, voice command, FSH. Available for£12,995
56 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI (170) SPORTSLINE, Metallic Grey with sports trim, Bose Audio Syatem, Multi-function steering wheel, Service history£11,995
54 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi (150 BHP) SRi, Silver with grey velour trim, Aircon, 6 speed, CD player, Alloys, well maintained£4,995
54 SAAB 93 1.9 TD VECTOR , Metallic blue with two tone tan leather trim, 6 speed, multifunction steering wheel, CD player. A well maintained car£4,495

SUMMERTIME

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AUTOMATICS

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V				
AUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 GSi TURBO, 61,000 mls,	Jet black with half leather sports trim,	incar entertainment. Well maintained.	Lots of service bills. Very clean£5,995	
AUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN, 7 seater, Silver	with grey trim, 75,000 mls, air con, C/L.	. Very clean	£3,695	
ENAULT ESPACE 2.0 AUTHENTIQUE, 7 seater.	50,000 mls. Silver with grey trim. Climat	e control. Electric pack	£3,495	

4x4
54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 XEi (New model), Metallic grey with half leather trim, air con, Electric pack, Downhill decent, Service history.....

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LOOK AT THESE THISES	
05 AUDI A4 1.8T SPORTSLINE,71,000 mls, Ice metallic blue with grey 'Sportsline' trim, CD Multi-changer (New mdl), Service history	
04 BMW 520 SE (New shape), Metallic black with full tan leather trim, Manual, 6 speed, Fully loaded, lovely service history. A lovely car	
55 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX – New mdl, 5 door, Metallic blue with grey trim, A/C, ABS, E/W, C/L. A very clean car inside and out	£4,695
04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTi (180 bhp), 56,000 mls, 3 door model, black with sports leather trim, Climate control. Very clean	
03 BMW 318i, Metallic blue with grey trim, rear parking aids, pgraded alloys, P/S, C/L, ABS, E/W, E/M. Well maintained	£4,495
52 ROVER 75 1.8 SE, Full service history, Ice baby blue with grey trim, 48,000 mls, Very clean	£2.995
53 ROVER 45 1.4 5 door, 29,000 mls, Metallic red with grey velour trim, Parking aids, Alloys, Air con, Elec winds, Elec mirrors, ABS, Service history	£2,695
02 ROVER 75 1.8 SALOON, Metallic blue with grey velour trim, Air con, Central Jock, ABS, Alloys. Clean for year	£2.495
52 ROVER 25 1.8 XS 16V. 5 door. Dark metallic grey with velour trim, air con, P/S, ABS, E/W, E/M, Allovs, Very clean car	
04 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIÁ, 5 door, Metallic black with grey velour trim, Upgráded alloys, CD player, air con, C/L, P/S, E/W, ABS, Very clean	£3,495

LOW INSURANCE

05 ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE (New shape), 5 door, grey metallic with contrasting trim. Very clean inside and out. Drives really well. Low insurance	£3,995
04 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE, 43,000 mls, Pearl blue with grey trim, Alloys, P/S, C/L,. Low road tax	£2,995
04 HYUNDAI 1.1 GETZ GSi, 3 door, 43,000 mls, Silver with grey trim. LOW INSURANCE- LOW ROAD TAX	£2,695
54 FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE SPORT, 3 door, 68,000 mls, silver with blue flec trim, Alloys, P/S, CD player. Ideal 1st car	£2,695



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02 MG ZR 1.8 (120 bhp), 3 door, one owner, 57,000 mls, sports blue. Clean trim, Alloys, P/S, body kit. A clean car	£1.995
X FORD ESCORT 1.6 FINESSE, Silver, 5 door, Grey trim, P/S, C/L, E/W, Low miles.	
53 CHRYSLER 2.0 NEON LX AUTOMATIC, silver, Full leather trim, A/C, Alloys, CD Player	
02 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SRi (150), 5 DOOR, Silver with grey sports trim, FSH. a clean car	£1,995
S SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 SPORT 4WD SWITCHABLE ESTATE, Metallic green with sports trim, Alloys, P/S, E/W, S/History	£1,995
W PEUGEOT 306 (14) 5 DOOR LX, Metallic red with grey trim, P/S, C/L, Low insurance	£1,995
V SUBARU LEGACY 2.5 GX AUTOMATIC SALOON, Metallic red with black leather trim, climate control, Fully loaded, S/history0	£1,995
X FORD MONDEO ZETEC, 5 door, Silver with grey trim, P/S, C/L, ABS, Alloys, CD player, air con	£1,495
W ROVER 45 1.6, 5 door, Ice metallic blue with grey velour trim, C/L, P/S, E/W. Very clean	£1,495
V CITROEN SAXÓ 1.6 VTR, Black with grey trim, P/Ś, 3 door mdl, E/W, C/L	£1,295
Y ROVER 45 1.4, Metallic red with velour trim, P/S, E/W, C/L. Clean and reliable	£1,295
V FORD FIESTA 12.5 ZETEC, 3 door, Metallic red with grey trim, 1 years MoT, P/S, C/L, Alloys	£1,295
Y VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 16V SXi, 5 door, Black .(New mdl), Alloys, P/S, C/L, Clean reliable car. Above average mls hence only	

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ONDEN & 1000:	
V FORD KA 1.3i, 71,000 mls, Magenta red with grey trim, P/S, 1 years MoT. Ideal 1st car	£1,295
T VW PASSAT 1.8 ESTATE, Blue with grey trim, P/S, C/L, E/W, Long MoT til May 2010	£995
N LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3.9 V8 XS, Petrol, clean, drives well. Automatic, 5 door. Worth a look	£995
T MAZDA 323F SE, 5door, Silver with grey trim, P/Ś, E/W, C/L. Alloys, E/M. Clean for year	£995
P RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 SPORT, Metallic blue with grey trim, Alloys, boot spoiler, S/Ř. 1 years MoT	

TWIST AND GO

56 PIAGGO FLY 100 TWIST AND GO SCOOTER 100cc. Will come with 1 years MoT,4,000 mls.

COMMERCIAL SALES

CUMMERCIAL SALES
07 MITSUBISHI L200 D1-D ANIMAL DOUBLE CAB PICK-UP AUTOMATIC, 47,000 mls, Side steps, rear double chrome roll bar, Two tone leather, Traffic Master£11,995 + vat
57 FORD TRANSIT T280 85ps S/W/B LOW ROOF NEW SHAPE, 44,000 mls, 1 owner, Plylined bulkhead, Dual passenger seat, colour coded. Very clean£7,995 + vat
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Di - D WARRIOR PICK-UP TRUCK (NEW SHAPE), Crew cab, Black, Alloys, P/S, E/W, ABS, E/M, Air con. Very clean - a stunning truck£7,495 + vat
04 FORD TRANSIT T350 UNDERARM TIPPER DIRECT FROM BT, Low mileage, White cab with new blue body with cage bulk. Immaculate£6,995 + vat
55 MITSUBISHI L200 DOUBLE CAB ANIMAL PICK - UP, Black with two tone leather trim, Air con, P/S, C/L, 5 speed, E/M, CD player, Side steps, Rear chrome step and roll bar,
Alloys
08 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 1.9 TDi C20, 1 owner, Green, Fully colour coded, New 18" Alloys, Plylined mesh bulkhead, S/H, CD player, Remote central locking£6,495 + vat
56 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 2.0 SDi, White, 65,000 mls, 18" Alloys, Fully colour coded, Recent service includes cambelt, Unsignwritten, Ready for work£4,995 + vat
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi - CHOICE OF TWO - White with grey trim, Plylined, Direct from major PLC Company, Well maintained, Remote C/L, P/S. Very clean £4,995 + vat
and £4,695 + vat
07 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi, 47,000 mls, White with grey trim, Wrap round bulkhead, side loading door, Plylined, Remote C/L. Clean£4,295 + vat
07 PEUGEOT PARTNER 800 LX 1.6 HDi (75) , 33,000 mls, White, Plylined bulkhead, P/S, E/W, C/L,E/M,1 owner. Well maintained
T VALIHALL COMBO 1.7 DIESEL MERIT - READY FOR WORK - White Unsignwritten chean van

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53 MINI COOPER 1.6, 60,000 mls, Bright red with white roof, mirror pods and bonnet stripes. Cooper alloys, privacy glass, full climate control, electric pack. A really pretty car....25,995



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2007 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life 7 Seater,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,26k



2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,22k £6,495



2007 07 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5dr.1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,11k



2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 SPORT 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 32k



2007 07 SKODA FABIA 1.2 AMBIENTE 2005 05 CITROEN PICASSO 2.0 Exclusive 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 24k



2 Owners, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 25k £5,495



2007 07 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i T3 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k



2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5dr,1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k



2006 56 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTS 125bhp ,3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k



2006 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k



2007 07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k



2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVT-i T3 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 14k



2007 07 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Sprinta 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k £5.695



2008 08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 Style Climate 3dr, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, 24k £5,995



2007 07 CITROEN C1 1.0 RHYTHM 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, Only £20 Road Tax, 29k



2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport TURBO DIESEL ESTATE,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,39k £7.795



2004 54 TOYOTA COROLLA 2.0 D4D 5dr,2 Owners,S/History,A/C,Alloys,59k £5.995



2006 56 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, Only £20 Road Tax. 26k

GRAVESEND

2007 07 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 Acenta, Caffe Latte, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 30k.....£10, 195 2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TURBO DIESEL Sport Estate, Ocean Blue, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 39k...£7,795 2007 07 HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE,Ice Blue,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,21k. £7,695 ..£7,295 2007 07 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI VTX,Blue,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,29k. 2007 07 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S, Grey, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloy, 11k. £6,895 2007 07 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 25k.....£6,495 2007 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life 7 Seater, Grey, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k.£6,995 2007 07 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i T3, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k. .£6.995 2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport AUTO, Tonic Blue, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 28k. .£6,95 2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX, Ocean Blue, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 33k. 2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T-Spirit, Silver, 3dr. 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 19k.... ..£6.695 2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S, Slate, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 22k... .£6,495 2006 56 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTS 125bhp, Black, 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k.. 2008 08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 Style Climate, Black, 3dr, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, 23k. 2007 07 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Sprinta, Red, 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k... 2007 07 CITROEN C1 1.0 Rhythm, Red, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, Only £20 Road Tax, 29k..£5,395 2007 07 RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 Expression, Blue, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, 41k.

CROWN GARAGE

2007 07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life 7 SEATER, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k.. 2007 07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 TURBO DIESEL LIFE, 5 dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 6 Spd, 31k...£6,995 2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport, Tonic Blue, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 32k......£6,995 2007 07 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i Zinc, 3dr, Silver, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 13k....£6,995 2007 07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi AUTO, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 30k.£6,995 2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX AUTO, Silver, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 27k... 2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVT-i T3, Blue, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 14k... 2008 58 PEUGEOT 107 Urban Move, Grey, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Tax till Sep 2010, 13k.......£6,495 2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S, Grey, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 22k.. 2006 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S, Red, 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k... 2004 54 TOYOTA COROLLA 2.0 T3 D-4-D TURBO DIESEL, Grey, 5dr, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 59k..£5,995 2007 07 SKODA FABIA 1.2 Ambiente, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 24k..... 2006 56 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, Only £20 Road Tax, 26k... 2005 05 CITROEN PICASSO 2.0 Exclusive AUTO, Grey, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 25k.....£5,495 2007 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2.0 CDX AUTO MPV,Silver,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,25k.....£3,795 🚪 2007 07 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Initia, Blue, 3dr, 1 Owner, Low Insurance and Road Tax, 9k....£5,495



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PROPERTY NEWS

Developer is reassured by improving market

HOUSEBUILDER Bovis Homes has announced "solid" half-year figures and said it is to resume its dividend at the end of the current financial year.

In January last year, the group said it would not pay a dividend as the housing market downturn hit the company hard, forcing it to slash headcount.

The company said at the end of 2008 it was experiencing the worst trading environment "for many years".

However, the improvement in the housing market has meant the company has now completed 803 homes in the first half of 2010 – up six per cent period a year ago. It added the average selling price of private homes rose to £163,500 from £160,400.

In a statement, the company said: "Given the confidence the board has in the medium-term prospects of the group arising from its investment in new land opportunities and the group's strong net cash position, the board intends to resume dividends at the end of the current financial year.

"The new homes market remains subdued with ongoing liquidity issues in the first-time buyer market limiting the number of transactions," it added.

However, like other housebuilders, it warned of the ongoing problems firsttime buyers face in obtaining a mortgage without a hefty deposit.

Protect your interest rate, urges the expert

AN independent mortgage expert has launched a new product designed to protect consumers from unexpected interest rate hikes.

The Interest Rate Protector is described by creators John Charcol as "interest rate protection without the expense of a fixed rate"

It will cap a borrower's interest rate at a level of their choosing and for a period of time that they determine, allowing customers complete choice of how to repay their mortgage.
"With many borrowers currently

enjoying the benefits of an ultra low interest rate environment, those on a variable rate risk some tough times ahead when rates, as they simply have to at some stage, rise," said John Charcol's Ray Boulger.

The traditional way to combat this is to switch to a fixed rate deal, but Mr Boulger insists the Interest Rate Protector provides a cheaper alternative.



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INNOVATIVE: The development has been named Peto Close, in honour of the engineer who put Folkestone on the railway map, giving the town vital links to London

Inspirational name is given to new homes

A NEW development of 37 homes in Folkestone has been named in honour of the famous Victorian engineer who helped put the town on the map.

Peto Close has been named after Sir Samuel Morton Peto, who built the London, Chatham and Dover Railway which reached Folkestone in 1843, cementing the town's role as a major cross-channel port.

The £4.7 million development by Town and Country Housing Group is on land off Eastfields, Folkestone, near to the landmark Foord Viaduct which carries the railway line that Peto built across the valley.

The homes range from one bedroom flats to three bedroom houses and will help to meet the huge demand for affordable housing in the Shepway District Council area.

Town and Country's acting development director Colin Lissenden said: "Sir Samuel was one of the Victorian era's most respected

BY NICK AMES

engineers and we are delighted the homes are named after him.

"He was a skilful innovator and we would like to think that he would have taken a great interest in the modern methods of construction with which these homes have been built by local contractors Jenner.'

The homes meet required standards for energy efficiency, quality of construction and also security.

Residents Brian and Caroline Walters, who moved into Peto Close with their children Robyn, Stuart and Curt, were full of praise for their new home.

"It's very spacious and has lots of storage space," said Caroline. "The bills are a lot cheaper. It's lovelv.'

The homes were let through Kent Homechoice, the system which allows eligible people to 'bid' on the homes they would like to

"They attracted an unprecedented level of interest when they were advertised.
Shepway District Council's, cabinet member

for housing, Cllr Keren Belcourt, officially opened the new homes.

She said: "The council is making good progress in meeting the need for additional affordable homes in Shepway.

"Over the next year we will be working hard to provide affordable homes in other high need areas of the district, including more homes provided in partnership with Town and Country."

Akin Durowoju, head of area at the Homes and Communities Agency which gave a grant of £2.1m towards the project, said: "I'm delighted we've been able to support this sustainable and affordable development right in

the heart of Folkestone.
"The Town and Country Housing project in Peto Close is great news for the area, and we will continue to support local communities in creating new and affordable places for people to live and work."

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LOOSE AREA £380,000

A substantial beautifully presented and well maintained five bed period style semi detached property with two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast area. Walking distance of Loose School.





Breath taking un-spoilt views over The Country Park, Lakes and North Downs, this beautifully presented three bedroom town house with master bedroom ensuite has a garage and parking. No Onward Chain.





COXHEATH £214,500

A well presented three bedroom semi detached residence having off road parking for two vehicles. Situated in a cul de sac location convenient for local schools, shops, village hall and playing firel. NO ONWARD CHAIN.







A three bedroom mid terrace residence offering flexible accommodation having a cellar conversion, master bedroom with en-suite and a pleasant rear garden. Convenient for town centre.





LOOSE AREA £167,000

A beautifully presented end terrace cottage property with two reception rooms, cellar, two first floor bedrooms and bathroom enjoying a 145ft rear





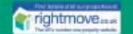
COXHEATH £165,000

A two bedroom semi detached residence in popular location with off parking for two/three vehicles



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Maidstone £585,000 1930's double fronted and extended detached home situated on a plot size of approximately 2/3 of an acre.

Four bedrooms, bathroom, living room, sitting room, dining room & kitchen.

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Maidstone Office

garage

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Maidstone

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Maidstone

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Maidstone

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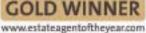
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PUBLIC NOTICE



9 Walpole Close, East Malling, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6SX We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £115,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.



Lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking. No forward chain.

Maidstone



First floor flat with two bedrooms bathroom, living room & f/kitchen/ dining room. Allocated parking.

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Three bedroom semi detached house. Living room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, separate wc, garden.

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Offers Over £150,000

Top floor apartment. Two bedrooms, en suite shower to master, bathroom, living room & f/kitchen.

Maidstone



Offers Over £180,000

Two reception rooms in lounge, dining kitchen, four

Maidstone

Maidstone

£185.000



Three bedroom house. Lounge with balcony with views to the town centre, kitchen & bathroom.

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f/kitchen. Off road

Four Bedroom home. Bathroom, en-











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- Large 1st floor flat
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Ringwood Road



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- · driveway and garage
- · corner plot with lots of garden to front

modern kitchen and bathroom

Detling

2 bed apartment near to town centre

Master bedroom with ensuite shower

· Allocated parking for one car

Modern kitchen with appliances

• Period cottage with rear garden

• lots of character, large original fireplace

• 2/3 bedrooms

Fitted kitchen

The Lakes



- · Ensuite to master
- Lake view, balcony to lounge,
- veranda to rear

Lenham



- 3 bed chalet bungalow, rural location · large gardens, fantastic views
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Beauworth Park



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Senior & General Appointments 50-52

PART TIME DINING ROOM ASSISTANT REQUIRED

(starting Monday, 6 September) Monday-Friday 11.30am-2.30pm Term time only



deuthiolial assistance with a saturday intertifies with be required on a rota basis - overtime paid) To assist the existing staff with the children's lunches (must have some kitchen experience preferably within a school kitchen environment)

Telephone: Mr Jerry Warran-Smith (Head Chef) for Application Form 01892 519349 answerphone please leave details of name and address

Closing date: Wednesday, 21 July

'Rose Hill is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children'

To advertise in this section **© 01303 817040**

PART-TIME VACANCY

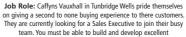
Bellegrove Ceramics Plc are looking to recruit a reliable part-time Sales Assistant who can be flexible with working hours, and can provide cover for holidays/absences, possibly at short notice.

This position would involve cover between Strood and Tunbridge Wells, so a current driving licence is essential.

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Interested: please forward your CV to christine.williams@bellegroveceramics.plc.uk

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relationships with your customers so that they will want to return again again for their new cars. You must also have an adaptable and flexible approach to make sure that you meet every customers expectations.

ou must be able to follow our Sales Process so that every customer is treated and dealt with in an open and transparent manner

We would prefer a person with vehicle retailing experience however candidates from the customer services sector will also be considered as vehicle sales training will be given. In return we offer an excellent renumeration package and company car.

Closing Date: Wednesday 15th July

If you think you have what it takes to join one of Kents Best Vauxhall In you alink you nave what it takes to juil one of keir Retailers then please send your CV to: lan Jones, Sales Manager, Caffyns Vauxhall North Farm Industrial Estate Lamberts Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN2 3EL

Or email ian.iones@caffvns.co.uk

Alzheimer's & Dementia

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services (ADSS) is the lead provider of practical and emotional support to people with dementia and their carers in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area. ADSS is currently expanding its services and requires the following person to join a very dedicated team.

REGISTERED MANAGER -SUPPORT AT HOME SERVICE

20 hours per week £12,000 p.a.

Plus car allowance and mileage

NVQ4 in Management required or NVQ3 willing to work to NVQ4 or an equivalent professional qualification

For an application pack, please telephone: 01474 533990 or email adminadss@btconnect.com

The closing date for completed applications is 10th August 2010

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls A Foundation School

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk



SENIOR COVER SUPERVISOR

35 hours per week - Term Time and Development Days Only (i.e. 39 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 5, initially Point 14 Pro rata £13,404.60 (full time £16,793)

A methodical and organised person is required to arrange classroom cover at Gravesend Grammar School for Girls. You will be arranging cover for absent teachers using our in-house cover supervisors and a variety of ad-hoc personnel and part time staff. Accuracy and attention to detail is essential. When not engaged in arranging cover you will be required to cover classes as detailed below.

COVER SUPERVISOR / EXAMS ASSISTANT

32.5 hours per week - Term Time, Development Days plus 1 week during holiday period (i.e. 40 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 4, initially Point 11 Pro rata £12,116.76 (full time £15,984)

Responsible, methodical and accurate person required to work supporting the Exams Officer. Work entails covering classes as detailed below and assisting in the administration of both internal and external exams. During exam periods it will be necessary to work flexibly. Experience of working in a school is desirable and knowledge of the SIMS database would be an advantage. You will be required to work during the exam results period in the summer holidays.

COVER SUPERVISOR

32.5 hours per week - Term Time and Development Days Only (i.e. 39 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 4, initially Point 11 Pro rata £11,847.48 (full time £15,984)

Enthusiastic, versatile and capable person required to provide classroom cover at Gravesend Grammar School for Girls. The role requires you to actively support the teaching and learning by supervising classes including giving instructions, answering questions and ensuring the engagement of students in study. The role also involves discipline and maintaining behaviour standards. When not actively covering classes you will be required to provide admin support to the teaching staff.

MATHS AND LANGUAGE TECHNICIAN

37 hours per week - Term Time and Development Days Only (i.e. 39 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 3, initially Point 7 Pro rata £11,897.28 (full time £14,099)

An organised and enthusiastic person is required to support our Maths and Language Faculties. The role covers a wide range of duties including preparing class materials, stock control and orders, maintenance of laptops and language lab and general faculty support. This is an exciting and demanding post and the successful candidate must be ICT literate, flexible and able to work on their own initiative and as part of a team..

MID DAY SUPERVISORS

6.25 hours a week 12.25 - 13.40 daily - Term Time Only (i.e. 38 weeks per year plus paid holiday entitlement) Salary at KCS Band 2, initially Point 4 Pro rata £1,815 (full time £12,903)

Required to supervise the dining room and playground during the lunch period ensuring standards of discipline and hygiene are maintained.

All roles are required from September 2010. Application forms and further details are available from the School Office. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 14th July.

Interviews will be held on the 19th or 20th July 2010.

Do you want to 'Make a Difference'? CHARITY TRUSTEES WANTED

£00.00 (Voluntary Position) Based: Faversham, Kent

Benefits: A great sense of satisfaction

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The Board meets 4 times a year during the working day and is supported by a number of Operating Boards and Committees. The Board also holds two Away Days a year with the Management Team

Interested? Want to find out more? Have a look at our website www.avantepartnership.org.uk. For an informal conversation, please contact Cedric Frederick, Avante Partnership's Chief Executive

Heard enough? Please send Cedric your CV and a covering letter setting out why you'd like to join our Board to

cfrederick@avantepartnership.org.uk or marked 'Private and Confidential' to Avante Partnership, De Gelsey House, 1 Jubilee Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 8GD

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required for busy practice in Chatham.

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KCA is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol

Community Drug Worker Substance Misusing Parents Project

£26,276 - £29,236 + essential car user allowance of up to £1,239 per annum • 37 hours per week • Based Swale

You will be part of a project providing specialist treatment to parents with drug or alcohol problems, who have been referred to Swale Children's Social Services, and whose substance use is impacting on the care of their children

You will work closely with social workers to implement a joint package of care to families. This includes making home visits, attending case conferences and core group meetings.

With excellent assessment and intervention skills, you will help service users make significant changes to their substance use. Experience of working in partnership with other agencies is desirable. A background and qualification in substance misuse, nursing, counselling, social work or another relevant

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton at shamilton@kca.org.uk or on 01843 298355 ext 217. Ref. 681.

Closing date: 26 July 2010 at 5,00pm. Interview date: 6 August 2010.

Family Support Workers

2 posts • Fixed term until 31 March 2011

f22.958 - f29.236

37 hours per week • I post in Gravesham and I post in Swale

KCA Horizon drug treatment programmes offer intensive key working, group work and assistance and support in accessing opportunities in education, employment and voluntary work, to those wishing to address their substance misuse and make positive changes to their lifestyle

You will be part of a community team whose aim is to improve the quality of treatment, in order to maximize the benefit to individuals' families and the local community. As a family support worker within the Horizon pilot project, you will be responsible for addressing the impact that substance misuse has on the family, including parenting and involving families and significant others in the care of service users.

You will need a professional qualification in a relevant discipline and a high level of experience working with families and the drug and alcohol field.
Please quote reference number 682 (Gravesham post) and 683 (Swale post).

Closing date: 26 July 2010. Interview date for both posts : 5 August 2010.

Finance Office Assistant

£15,039 - £16,830 pro rata per annum 30 hours per week • Based Faversham

As part of our busy finance team, you will undertake the daily administration duties and assist in the operation and maintenance of the purchase ledger. sales ledger and payroll. You will also provide back-up support for team members as required. Training will be provided.

You will need to have good keyboard skills, be numerate and fully computer literate. Previous experience of working in a finance office and knowledge of Microsoft Office and Dynamics Great Plains is desirable but not essential. You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795. Ref. 684.

Closing date: 23 July 2010. Interview date: 1 Í Áugust 2010.

Application forms and job descriptions for all roles can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote the relevant reference

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse, Charity No: 292824

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MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Lecturer in Electrical Installation

Ref: P0357

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of Electrical Installation programmes. The ideal candidate must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate must have; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one. Good IT skills and the ability to work within a team are essential

Lecturer in Foundation Programmes

Ref: P0121

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience) 30 hours per week Medway

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Foundation Programmes across the College. The role will involve working with Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor Ref: P0378

Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised assessing certificate.

Personal Tutor

Ref: P0499

Salary: £20.674 - £23.212 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Maidstone

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will also be responsible for a range of supportive activities including one-to-one tutorials. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator

Ref: M0450

Maternity Cover – fixed term contract Salary: £16,005 - £19,127 per annum Medway

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities to facilitate student learning through training and experience at events. You will efficiently organise frontline events, including liaison with event organisers and Lecturers, supporting the College in the effective running of the frontline programme. Excellent communication skills and a recognised customer service qualification are essential as well as, experience of driving a minibus and holding a full, clean driving license with Class D entitlement or a current PCV license.

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medwa

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Information and Guidance Triage

Ref: P0131

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medway

We are looking to recruit a candidate to assist with the smooth running of the Information, Advice and Guidance department. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within a busy environment and will have excellent organisational skills. Duties will include providing a general enquiry service as part of the front of house team.

Hourly Paid Facilitators

Ref: SE560

Hourly Rate: £8.96 - £11.26 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit sessional facilitators to join our successful CAST Team, working with students who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The ideal candidates will have experience of working with young people and are able to offer hours to suit the College timetables.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 16 July 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



















Rainham School for Girls

(A Specialist Technology College & Training School) Derwent Way, Rainham, GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX

(NOR 1570)

Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

Science Teacher required for September 2010 Applications welcome from experienced teachers and NQTs

Rainham School for Girls is a popular and successful non-selective 11-19 school offering excellent opportunities for enthusiastic and ambitious applicants to contribute to its continuing development. The school has Investors in People status.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from Mrs D Francis, HR Manager at the School.
Tel. 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334. email: dfrancis@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: Monday, 19th July 2010

To advertise in this section **4 01303 817040**

FULL TIME DOUBLE GLAZED INSTALLER/ENGINEER WANTED

You must have minimum of 3 years experience of fitting UPVC/timber/aluminium windows, doors and conservatories, also be hands on in repairs and maintenance of locks, hinges etc.

You must also be able to work on your own. using your own initiative and hold a full current Driving Licence.

Please apply in writing with a current CV to: SouthEast WindowCare Unit 1 John Hall Close Oare Road, Faversham Kent ME13 7TY



SC Support & Care Services Ltd

We provide a high quality service to promote independent living and social activities for people with various needs.

We are looking for part time, casual, evening and weekend staff to work in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. Car and mobile essential. Mileage allowance, weekend and evening enhancements.

£6.32 - £7.99 per hour. Full training given. For further details please ring 01732 875888



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Formulation Management Administrator



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Reporting to the FM manager and following a training period your role will be to manage the day to day running of the department.

With a background in either quality control or perfumery you will have a well developed sense of smell, be familiar with perfumery raw materials and fragrance creation and possess the ability to think creatively and enjoy problem solving. For the right candidate we offer a competitive salary and relocation package together with a bonus scheme and 25 days annual leave.

A complete Job specification can be found on our website www.cplaromas.com or can be requested by telephone on 01604 882 100

If you are interested in finding out more about CPL then please send CV with covering letter to phil.bowling@cplaromas.com or complete the application form online at the above web address.

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We offer a good basic salary, performance and target related bonus and 5 weeks holiday.



Award Winning Company

So if you think you have what it takes to join our sales teams send your CV to ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk quoting fieldsales or telesales position.



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

We are seeking to appoint an

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Closing date: 19 July 2010. Interview date: 28 July 2010.

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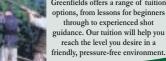
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CRTCKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Division Three

Addington Village 1st XI v Downham & Bellingham 1st XI

ADDINGTON Village narrowly avoided a slip up as they were pushed all the way by lowly Downham & Bellingham for a two

Village, who are yet to taste defeat this season, came perilously close to losing that record, only for an impressive performance with the ball to snatch victory

Addington batted first but were put under immediate pressure from a fiery Downham & Bellingham bowling attack. Opener Will Jeffery (5) was the first to fall after being caught off Stewart Barnes' bowing.

Ben Buet (20) and Ray Van Schoor (36) put Addington back on course but they were dismissed before they could score heavily by Chris Goddard and David Meeking respectively. The tail were unable to launch a recovery,

which left Addington facing the prospect of defending 131 all-out.

Downham also struggled to score at the crease as Tom Nissen and Pigott struck early on.

The wickets continued to tumble as Downham's batsmen struggled to settle into a rhythm, with Gary Hopper top scoring with only 26

Addington's bowlers stuck to the task and they eventually managed to dismiss Downham for 129 in the 43rd over to win by the narrowest of margins. Van Schoor finished with impressive figures of 2 for 4 from his five overs.

Too close for comfort as Village scrape a victory



LUCKY ESCAPE: Addington's uncharacteristically poor display with the bat went unpunished as they just managed a win at the weekend

SCORE CARD

Addington Village 1st XI

3	Runs
Will Jeffery ct Powell b Barnes	5
Ben Buet ct & b Goddard	20
Ray Van Schoor ct Plowman b Meeking	36
Duncan Brown lbw b Goddard	2
Joe Pigott b Mendham	27
Ross McDermott lbw b Goddard	0
Neil Scott ct Barnes b Goddard	21
Tom Down ct Plowman b Goddard	10
Tom Nissen b Goddard	0
James Fullagar not out	
Dan Walton Ibw b Mendham	1
Extras (2b 1lb 5w 1nb)	
Total (all out , 31 overs)	131

Downham & Bellingham

Greg Plowman ct Jeffery b Nissen5
Robin Bailey st Jeffery b Nissen 20
Colin Powell b Pigott
Chris Goddard ct Scott b Nissen9
Paul Sampson ct Jeffery b Walton25
John Bumstead Ibw b Walton
Gary Hopper lbw b Scott
Stewart Barnes ct Jeffery b Van Schoor 4
Adam Cannon Ibw b Van Schoor0
Chris Mendham run out
David Meeking not out
Extras (5b 5lb 2w)
Total (all out , 43 overs)129

Rowlers

	0	M	R	W
Joe Pigott	7	1	23	1
Tom Nissen	10	0	46	3
Dan Walton	11	5	20	2
Duncan Brown	5	0	25	0
Ray Van Schoor	5	3	4	2
N - 11 C 44	_		-	

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Macknade 1st XI v Offham 1st XI

KAYLEM Short produced a man of the match display with both the bat and ball as he helped Macknade conden Offham to a 72-run defeat.

The hosts batted first and Short wasted little time at the crease as he plundered 92 before falling to the bowling of Mervyn Brooker. With Chris Smith and Scott Davenport also in the runs Macknade posted an impressive 298 from their 50 overs

Despite half centuries from Tom and Ben Gittings, Offham were unable to challenge for the victory. The visitors were dismissed for 226, with Short taking 5 for 70.

Macknade 1st XI

Kavlem Short	lbw b	Brooker .		9
Steve Taylor	ct Git	tings b Raze	v	3
Chris Smith				
Andrew Machin				
Lee Rigden				
Scott Davenport				
Terry McDowell				
Jamie Rigden				
Andy Corcoran				
Darryl Cook	did no	t bat		
Extras				
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Leonard Watt	7	0	46	3
Andy Cox	7	Õ	31	ó
	12	0	76	1
	4			
Simon Hallbrook		1	20	0
Graham Razey	13	0	64	2
Ben Regan	7	0	38	1

011111111111111111111111111111111111111				Runs
Ben Regan	h Cha	.1		
Kraig Corke				
Gary Evans	ct Ma	chin b Short		
Ben Gittings	ct Mc	Dowell b Ric	den	6
Leonard Watt	b Rigo	len		
Lawrence Bell	b Rigo	len		
Tom Gittings	not ou	ıt		6
Graham Razey	ct Tay	lor b Short		20
Andy Cox	ct Day	renport b Ro	wcroft	
Mervyn Brooker	ct Ma	chin b Short		19
Simon Hallbrook	lbw b	Corcoran		
Extras	(4b 1v	v)		!
Total	(all ou	t, 44.4 over	s)	220
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Andy Corcoran	9.4	2	37	1
Kavlem Short				

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION Hartley Country Club 1st XI v The Mote 1st XI

THE Mote are just three points adrift from the top of the

Premier Division after a 60-run win at Hartley Country Club. The visitors started brightly with James Marriott (27), Thomas Harvey (59), James Hodgson (73) and Daniel Thirkell (42) all among the runs. Despite a lack of support further down the card they finished on 263 for 9.

Hartley looked to be heading for a heavy defeat as they slumped to 29 for 5. Sam Billings and Patrick Underwood put them back in contention, but it was too little too late as they were dismissed for 203.

The Mote 1st XI

James Marriott	ct Bill	ings b Carte	r	2
Thomas Harvey	ct Rec	dwood b Hen	nphrey	5
James Hodgson	ct D T	hompson b.	J Thompson	7
Matthew Coles	ct & b	JThompsor	٠	4
Daniel Thirkell	lbw b	Carter		4
Chris Back	st Billi	ings b Patel		4
Laurence Waters				
Richard Coles	ct Her	nphrev b Ca	rter	
Tom Parsons				
Caspian Paget	run oı	t Redwood		4
Alex Fordham	not ou	ıt		
Extras	(5b 9l	b 7w 1nb)		2
Total				
Bowlers				
bowiers	0		n	W
Daniel Redwood	0 7	M 1	R 33	0
			<i>6</i> 0	
James Thompson	10 7	0		2
		0	39	
Charlie Hemphrey		0	38	1
Min Patel	10	2	42	1
James Cramp	6	0	37	0

Hartley Country Club 1st XI

Charlie Hemphrey	b Col	es		0
David Thompson				
Rizwan Malik	ct For	dham b Pars	ons	16
Min Patel	ct Hoo	lason b Pars	ons	3
James Thompson	lbw b	Parsons .		0
Sam Billings				
Patrick Underwood				
Scott McKechnie				
James Cramp				
Daniel Redwood				
Darrell Carter				
Extras				
Total				
		, 12 01010,		
Bowlers				
Domero	0	M	R	W
Matthew Coles	8	2	37	3
Tom Parsons		ī		
Caspian Paget		0	21	Ö
oaspian rayet)	U	41	0

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Wye 1st XI v Yalding 1st XI

A DISASTROUS Yalding batting collapse presented Wye with a convincing 111-run win which boosted their title

Wye batted first and posted a decent 227 from their 46 overs, with Nick Eve top scoring with a solid knock of 76.

Yalding made a promising start to their run chase with a half century from opener Matthew Thomas, but once his wicket was taken the innings began to crumble.

Only Zeeshan Fazal (11) and Fergus Carty (22) managed to reach double figures as Wye rattled through Yalding's batting line up, dismissing them for 116 after 34 overs.

> ..b Waseemct Thomas b Haider .ct Thomas b Gnanappiragasan

Nick Eve	ct Hu	tchins b Carl	v	76
Raj Mahadevaiah	lbw b	Waseem .	-	24
Lloyd Starley	ct Wa	aseem b Carl	v	5
William Elgar	st Th	omas b Cart	v	26
Alex Woodbridge				
Keith Secrett	not o	ut		17
Mark Shannon	did no	ot bat		
Matt Barlow	did no	ot bat		
Extras	(11b é	6lb 7w)		24
Total	(7 wi	ckets, 46 ove	ers)	227
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Dushyanth Gnanappiragas	am 11	2	50	1
Jumshad Haider	11	2	44	1
Mohammad Waseem	12	2	45	2
Fergus Carty	8	0	30	3
Marty Hollis	4	0	41	0
-				

Yalding 1st XI

Matthew Thomas	c&b N	oden		54
Zeeshan Fazal	c&b V	Vise		11
Marty Hollis	b Elga	r		5
John Rvan	ct Eve	b Woodbrid	dae	0
Jack Nyren	ct Bar	low b Secre	tť	3
Mohammad Waseem	c&b V	Voodbridge		5
Jumshad Haider	ct Sta	rlev b Wood	lbridae	3
Graham Hutchins	ct Noo	den b Woodl	bridge	0
Mark Griffin	lbw b	Woodbridge	2	0
Fergus Carty				
Dushyanth Gnanappiraga	sam .lbw b	Wise		1
Extras	(8b 1l	b 2w 1nb)		12
Total	(all o	ut , 34.2 ove	rs)	116
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Stuart Wise	8.2	2	24	2
William Elgar	6	1	17	1
Keith Secrett	8	0	15	1
Alex Woodbridge	9	1	38	5

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1A CENTRAL Upchurch 3rd XI v Leeds & Broomfield 1st XI

A CENTURY from Chris Davis pushed Leeds & Broomfield towards a comprehensive 105-run win at Upchurch 3rd XI. Davis (107), batting alongside John Hartshorn (84), provided Leeds & Broomfield with the majority of their 281 for 5. They were also helped by some generous bowling from the hosts, who conceded 26 runs in extras.

With a relatively large score to defend, the visitors' bowlers came out of the blocks quickly and never allowed Upchurch's batmen to settle. Adrian Samson impressed with the ball, taking four wickets as Upchurch were bowled out for 176

Leeds & Broomfield XI

Aaron balley	CL Dav	ies d iviullis		
Chris Davis	ct Ove	rbury b Jes	sop	107
John Hartshorn				
Richard Turner	lbw b	Bond		39
Anton Martin	b Bon	d		4
Geoff Hunt	not ou	t		14
James Ingarfield	not ou	t		0
Daren Hunt	did no	t bat		
Adrian Samson	did no	t bat		
Paul Apps	did no	t bat		
Extras				
Total	(5 wid	kets, 46 ove	rs)	281
Bowlers				
	0		R	
Tim Mullis	8	2	36	1

U	IVI	IV.	VV
8	2	36	1
10	2	66	3
6	0	39	0
6	0	30	0
9	0	51	1
3	1	14	0
4	0	30	0
	6 6 9	8 2 10 2 6 0 6 0 9 0	8 2 36 10 2 66 6 0 39 6 0 30 9 0 51 3 1 14

Upchurch 3rd XI

Trevor Collis	run out Davis	14
Phil Danton	b Hunt	14
Ray Cretney	b Martin	37
	b Turner	
Daniel Overbury	b Samson	30
	ct Hunt b Samson	
	run out Davis	
	ct Turner b Samson	
	ct Turner b Samson	
	not out	
	ct Samson b Martin	
	oc danion b march	
	(all out , 40.3 overs)	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Douglass		

Takeover talks despite ground-share wrangle

FOOTBALL

BY **YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER**

MAIDSTONE United could be taken over before the new season, if minority shareholder Oliver Ash can reach an agreement with chairman Paul Bowden-Brown.

The pair have had ongoing negotiations since May and although both sides have publicly insisted the talks have been "positive", progress has been slow, with supporters growing increasingly frustrated at a lack of news.

ing increasingly frustrated at a lack of news. Last Tuesday, Ash issued a statement via the Stones' unofficial internet forum confirming his company, Richmond, was still seeking repayment of an outstanding £100,000 loan.

However, the statement also said: "At the same time he [Ash] is hoping to renegotiate a deal with Paul Bowden-Brown which would enable a refinancing of the club through new investors, but that will depend upon an audit of the financial situation, which is happening right now."

Bowden-Brown declined to comment publicly. Although he is the club's largest shareholder, owning 49 per cent, Bowden-Brown could in theory be voted off the board if Ash, who purchased 25 per cent of the club in February, 2008, joins forces with the third shareholder, Bill Williams, who owns 26 per cent. It is the second time in 18 months United





NEW DAWN: Maidstone United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown (left) is yet to strike a deal with share holder Oliver Ash, while the club's future at Ashford Town's Homelands Stadium (above) is unclear

have been the subject of a possible takeover.

In December, 2008, Bowden-Brown had negotiations with David Folb, owner of the Maidstone-based Lashings World XI cricket team, but the two parties failed to agree a fee. Further uncertainty has been caused by

Further uncertainty has been caused by High Court action concerning the Stones' landlords, Ashford Town, who are suspended from all forms of football due to unpaid debts.

United are still not certain they will be able to use Ashford's Homelands next season, although it is understood contingency plans are in place and temporary ground-sharing may be permitted by the Ryman League

may be permitted by the Ryman League.

Maidstone have also responded to allegations from Ashford Town, who claim the ground-share is unlikely to continue due to an alleged breach of the agreement.

The Stones signed a three-year agreement to play home games at Ashford this time last year. Town posted a statement on their website citing a breach last week.

A statement from Maidstone United says: "The club can confirm there has been no breach of the lease with the owners of Homelands.

"Therefore the club will continue to play at Homelands this season as per our ground-share agreement. There have been no negotiations with Sittingbourne FC and any statements to the contrary are merely speculation and not fact."

Stones boss Peter Nott expects left-back Jermaine Darlington to be a part of his squad for the new season.

The experienced defender attended pre-season training last week along with a host of trialists, which included former Ashford Town and Tonbridge Angels defender Marc Cumberbatch

ATHLETICS

It's all go for Green at Canada juniors



MEDAL HUNT: Jack Green (pictured racing for Ashford AC) will take on the world's best in Canada this month

HIGHLY-rated Jack Green will run for Great Britain at the World Junior Athletics Championships in Canada next week.

The 18-year-old from Maidstone is part of a squad of 45 heading to Moncton to compete against the world's best young athletes. Green, a 400m hurdler, earned his place in the GB squad after winning at the under-20 World Trials Championships in Bedford last month.

He crossed the line in 51.54 seconds, which was enough to push him to the top of the UK 400m hurdles under-20 rankings.

The former Ashford Athletic Club runner has enjoyed a successful season so far with victory in the Southern Counties under-20 Championships and the Bauhaus Junior Gala in Germany.

However, securing a medal at the World Junior Championships would become his biggest achievement in the sport to date.

The championships begin on July 19.

Golding's new approach raises expectations

RUGBY

WITH pre-season training well under way, Maidstone RFC director of rugby Andy Golding is looking forward to the new season but unsure what to expect.

The club have introduced a new coaching structure after enduring two difficult seasons, which culminated in relegation from London 1 South last year after finishing second bottom.

Maidstone, who face the challenge of London 2 South East next season, returned to pre-season training two weeks ago under the guidance of new head coach Andy Foley, who replaces Tim McBennett.

Golding, who has taken over as chairman and director of rugby, is pleased by the



FRESH START: Maidstone hope new tactics and ideas will enable them to bounce back to London 1 South

progress made in pre-season and looking forward to the new season.

He said: "It would be lovely to return to London 1 South but we don't really know what

level of rugby to expect in this division. We just want to play good attractive rugby and see where that takes us. We've got some exciting youngsters coming through the ranks."

New first-team manager Richard Coles — who has taken up the role after suffering a broken neck which curtailed his playing career last season — believes Foley's presence in pre-season is already having an effect on the side.

He said: "We've had good numbers show up for training and Andy has brought his own ideas to the sessions which seems to work.

"We're not starting again with the side but trying to build on what a very young side learnt from a tough season last year."

Maidstone play their first pre-season game at home to Folkestone on August 14.

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